



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Public Hearing
&
Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



Monday, April 10, 2017

7:00 PM

Agenda:

1. **Registration**
Voting Instructions **page 4**
Notice of Public Hearing **page 6**
2. **WCC – Delegate Elections** **WCC Delegate(s)**
Conservation Congress Delegate Election Process **page 3**
3. **County Deer Advisory Council Update** **WCC CDAC Chair**
2017 Preliminary County Deer Permit Recommendation **page 8**
4. **DNR – Wildlife and Fisheries Public Hearing** **DNR Hearing Officer**
DNR Wildlife Proposed Rule Changes **page 10**
DNR Fisheries Proposed Rule Changes **page 20**
5. **Natural Resources Board Advisory Question** **page 31**
6. **Citizen Resolutions** **WCC Delegate(s)**
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How to Write a Resolution & Sample Resolution **page 47**
7. **Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting** **WCC Delegate(s)**
Conservation Congress Advisory Questions **page 32**

This hearing is not a debate but rather an opportunity for public input. Everyone will be given an opportunity to comment on the questions, but you will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes for each question that you wish to discuss. If comments become repetitive, the hearing officer may limit comments to issues not previously presented. Written comments on all DNR proposed rule changes will be accepted until April 10, 2017.

**The results of the 2017 Spring Hearings will be available online
as soon as they are compiled.
Visit dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”**

PUB-LS-003 2017

Resolutions are introduced and voted on by the public in attendance at local Conservation Congress meetings in April.

- Resolutions that do not receive a passing vote are referred back to the author and are not advanced further.
- Authors are encouraged to work with their local county Conservation Congress delegates to reevaluate the idea and perhaps reintroduce the resolution in a subsequent year.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress Resolution Process

Resolutions that pass are assigned to a WCC advisory committee for further examination and vetting.

- Resolutions that do not pass out of committee are referred back to the author and are not advanced further.

Resolutions that pass out of WCC committees are referred to the District Leadership Council and recommended for statewide input as an advisory question on the next April's questionnaire.

- Resolutions that do not pass the District Leadership Council are referred back to the author and are not advanced further.



Questions that pass the District Leadership Council are placed on the questionnaire and the public in attendance at the Conservation Congress County Meetings in April can vote on those advisory questions.

- The full body of the Conservation Congress meets in May to take a Congress position on the issue based on the public's opinion and the results of the advisory questions.
- All questions and results from the annual convention in May are then forwarded to the Natural Resources Board as advisement from the Conservation Congress.

Southwest Wisconsin CWD, Deer and Predator Project



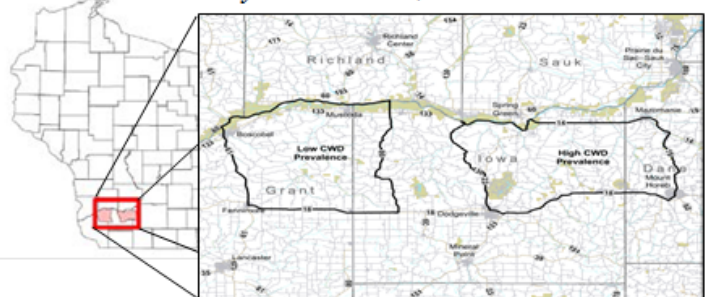
The Southwest Wisconsin CWD, Deer and Predator Project is looking at how different factors, like CWD, predation, hunting, and habitat, impact deer populations.

Project Goals:

- Measure deer survival rates and mortality rates from CWD, predators, hunting, and other factors
- Collect data on CWD prevalence, pregnancy rates, nutritional condition, and fawn:doe ratios
- Document habitat quality as it relates to deer
- Estimate abundance and distribution of coyotes and bobcats in the study area



Study area in Grant, Iowa and Dane counties



Get Involved!

Captured deer and predators are fitted with GPS collars that track their movements frequently. Landowners can help by allowing deer capture on their property. Trappers can help by reporting coyotes and bobcats they catch and do not want, or are unable to keep so that they can be fitted with collars and released. The public can help with fawn searches and other activities.

To learn more, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "deer research" or email dnrDeerResearch@wisconsin.gov



WCC Delegate Elections

The delegate elections take place at 7:00 p.m. prior to the start of the DNR portion of the Annual Spring Hearing/County Conservation Meeting.

If you are a resident of the county in which you are attending the meeting, and are at least 18 years of age, you may vote for the Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates. Proof of residency within the county is required in order to receive ballots to vote for delegates. If you meet these criteria, you will receive:

- ☐ 2-Year Term ballot
- ☐ 2-Year Term run-off ballot

2-YEAR ELECTION BALLOT 2-YEAR WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS I vote for the above named individual to serve a two-year term on the WCC.

- ☐ 3-Year Term ballot
- ☐ 3-Year Term run-off ballot

3-YEAR ELECTION BALLOT 3-YEAR WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS I vote for the above named individual to serve a three-year term on the WCC.

Each April, there is one 2-year term and one 3-year term available on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC), unless other vacancies occur. County residents in attendance at the annual county meeting have the opportunity to nominate a peer.

Nominees have the opportunity to say a few words (up to 3 minutes) on how they could best represent their county, and serve as a conduit for local citizen input concerning all natural resource issues at a local and statewide level.

As a county delegate, you agree to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

Citizens in attendance at the county congress meetings have the opportunity to vote on nominees. In order for the nominee to be elected, they must receive a majority of the votes (at least 50% + 1) of participating voters in attendance.

Delegate Eligibility

Any citizen of the county who is able to represent the citizens of Wisconsin, and be a local avenue for citizen input and exchange of ideas concerning all natural resource issues through the WCC on a local and statewide level is eligible to be nominated and to run for election that evening.

A delegate must:

- Be a Wisconsin resident.
- Be an adult (at least 18 years of age), and a resident of the county he or she wishes to represent. To give the widest geographic representation, it is recommended that not more than three members of the county delegation be from the same town, city or village.
- Be willing to volunteer their time and efforts by:
 - Attending two district meetings per year (*one in March and one in August*); assisting with the annual spring hearings in April; attending the annual convention in May and one or more advisory committee meetings in the fall of the year.
 - Working with local citizens and organizations on natural resource issues on a local basis, and participating in outreach and outdoor initiatives of local and statewide significance.
 - Possibly serving as chair or alternate chair of their County Deer Advisory Council.

NOTE: The Conservation Congress is an equal opportunity organization, and welcomes participation from all individuals regardless of race, age, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, arrest, conviction, veteran status or political affiliation.

Statewide Electronic Balloting

To ensure that you are able to provide your input on the proposals presented, make sure you read the instructions below before voting.

After you have registered, you will be provided with

- ☑ a **white ballot** for the Department of Natural Resources proposed Wildlife & Fisheries rule change questions, Natural Resources Board advisory question, and Wisconsin Conservation Congress advisory questions.
- ☑ a **blue ballot** for any citizen introduced resolutions.

In order for ballots to be read correctly by the voting machine:

- Use a PENCIL on ballots - **not pen**
- DO NOT erase (If you make a mistake, please turn in your original ballot and request a new ballot)
- DO NOT circle answers
- DO NOT make notes or stray marks anywhere on the ballot
- If you DO NOT follow these directions your ballot may not be readable and therefore may not be counted.

Please see the following examples of the use of the ballots.

Sample WHITE BALLOT:

The white ballot is for Department of Natural Resources proposed rule changes and advisory questions, Natural Resources Board advisory questions, and Wisconsin Conservation Congress advisory questions in the questionnaire.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SPRING HEARING QUESTIONS**

To vote on a question, complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "YES" if in favor of the question or complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "NO" if opposed to the question.

IMPORTANT: USE A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED. DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN.

Question 1:	Question 18:	Question 35:
YES	YES	YES
NO	NO	NO
Question 2:	Question 19:	Question 36:
YES	YES	YES
NO	NO	NO
Question 3:	Question 20:	Question 37:
YES	YES	YES

Question 1: Do you support changing the dates of the turkey season?

1. YES _____ No _____

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **YES** as indicated above. If you are **NOT** in favor of the proposed question please mark **NO**.

Sample BLUE BALLOT:
The blue ballot is for **citizen resolutions** that are introduced on the floor this evening and are posted for your consideration.

**CONSERVATION CONGRESS
SPRING HEARING RESOLUTIONS**

To vote on a question, complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "YES" if in favor of the question or complete the arrow to the RIGHT of "NO" if opposed to the question.

IMPORTANT: USE A #2 PENCIL OR THE MARKING PEN PROVIDED. DO NOT USE BALL POINT PEN.

Resolution 1:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">YES </div>	Resolution 18:	YES	Resolution 35:	YES
	NO		NO		NO
Resolution 2:	YES	Resolution 19:	YES	Resolution 36:	YES
	NO		NO		NO
Resolution 3:	YES	Resolution 20:	YES	Resolution 37:	YES
	NO		NO		NO

Resolution 1: BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Your County on Month, Date, Year, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the state legislature to designate the morel as the state fungus.?

1. YES _____ No _____

If you are **in favor** of the question, please mark **YES** as indicated above. If you are **NOT** in favor of the proposed question please mark **NO**.



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TO EXCITEMENT!**



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WILD

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

GoWild.wisconsin.gov

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2017, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress will hold its election of county delegates in each county. Upon completion of the delegate elections, the joint Spring Department of Natural Resources Rule and Informational Hearing and Conservation Congress County Meeting will convene. Immediately following the close of the Conservation Congress County Meeting, the WCC delegates (including those newly elected) will meet to elect the county delegation's chair and vice-chair.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announces that it will hold public hearings on the fisheries and habitat management protection bureau's spring hearing agenda, permanent rule Board Order FH-10-16, and a meeting on the wildlife management bureau's spring hearing agenda at the times and places shown below.

Board Order FH-10-16 is a permanent rule that would modify NR 19-23 and 26 relating to fishing regulations on inland, outlying, and boundary waters of Wisconsin. The wildlife management spring hearing agenda addresses potential changes related to hunting, trapping, refuges and closed areas, and wildlife nuisance control.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/ProposedPermanent.html>

The public hearings/meetings will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Adams	Adams County Courthouse, County Board Room, 400 Main Street, Friendship, WI 53934
Ashland	Ashland High School, Auditorium, 1900 Beaser Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806
Barron	Barron County Auditorium, 335 E. Monroe Street, Barron, WI 54812
Bayfield	Bayfield County Courthouse, Upstairs Board Room, 117 E. 5 th Street, Washburn, WI 54891
Brown	Northeast Wisconsin Tech. College, Executive Dining Hall, 2740 W Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54307
Buffalo	Alma High School, S1618 State Road 35, Alma, WI 54610
Burnett	Burnett County Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Highway K, Siren, WI 54872
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, Room B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School, Auditorium, 750 Tropicana Blvd, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Clark	Greenwood High School, Cafetorium, 306 W Central Avenue, Greenwood, WI 54437
Columbia	Wayne Bartels Middle School, Gymnasium, 2505 New Pinery Road, Portage, WI 53901
Crawford	Prairie du Chien High School, Auditorium, 800 E Crawford Street, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Dane	Monona Grove High School, Schwan Fine Arts Center, 4400 Monona Drive, Monona, WI 53716
Dodge	Horicon Int'l Education Center, Lower Level Auditorium, N7725 State Highway 28, Horicon, WI 53032
Door	Sturgeon Bay High School, Commons, 1230 Michigan Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Douglas	Northwestern High School, 4751 County Road F, Maple, WI 54854
Dunn	Dunn County Fish and Game Club, 1600 Pine Avenue, Menomonie, WI 54751
Eau Claire	CVTC Business Ed Center, Casper Room 103, 620 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701
Florence	Florence Natural Resources Center, 5631 Forestry Drive, Florence, WI 54121
Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, Auditorium, 525 E Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Forest	Crandon High School, 9750 U.S. Hwy 8, Crandon, WI 54520
Grant	Lancaster High School, Hillary Auditorium, 806 E Elm Street, Lancaster, WI 53813
Green	Monroe Middle School, Enter via North-side Door, 1510 13th Street, Monroe, WI 53566
Green Lake	Green Lake High School, Multi-purpose Room, 612 Mill Street, Green Lake, WI 54941
Iowa	Dodgeville Middle School, 951 W Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533
Iron	Mercer Community Center, 2648 W Margaret Street, Mercer, WI 54547
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, LGI Room, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls, WI 54615
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fair Park, Activity Center, 503 N Jackson Avenue, Jefferson, WI 53549
Juneau	Olson Middle School, Auditorium, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948
Kenosha	Bristol School District #1, East Gymnasium, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol, WI 53104
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, 911 3rd Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, Performing Arts Center, 700 Hilltopper Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
Lafayette	Darlington Elementary School, Large Group Room, 11630 Center Hill Road, Darlington, WI 53530
Langlade	Antigo High School, Volm Theatre, 1900 Tenth Avenue, Antigo, WI 54409
Lincoln	Merrill High School, Auditorium, 1201 N Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Manitowoc	UW Manitowoc, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

Marathon	DC Everest Middle School, Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Weston, WI 54476
Marinette	Wausaukee High School, Auditorium, N11941 Highway 141, Wausaukee, WI 54177
Marquette	Montello High School, Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello, WI 53949
Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse, W3269 Courthouse Lane, Keshena, WI 54135
Milwaukee	West Allis Central High, 8516 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis, WI 53227
Monroe	Tomah High School, Cafeteria, 901 Lincoln Avenue, Tomah, WI 54660
Oconto	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E Algoma Street, Suring, WI 54174
Oneida	James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia Lane, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Outagamie	Appleton North High School, Auditorium, 5000 North Ballard Road, Appleton, WI 54913
Ozaukee	Webster Transitional School, Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg, WI 53012
Pepin	Pepin County Government Center, Room 101, 740 7th Avenue West, Durand, WI 54736
Pierce	Ellsworth High School, Cafeteria, 323 Hillcrest Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011
Polk	Unity High School, Auditorium, 1908 State Hwy 46, Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Portage	Ben Franklin Junior High, Auditorium Rm. 1208, 2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481
Price	Price County Courthouse, County Board Room, 126 Cherry Street, Phillips, WI 54555
Racine	Union Grove High School, Auditorium, 3433 S Colony Avenue, Union Grove, WI 53182
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, 181 W Seminary Street, Richland Center, WI 53581
Rock	Ramada Inn, 3900 Milton Avenue, Janesville, WI 53546
Rusk	Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 Edgewood Avenue East, Ladysmith, WI 54848
Saint Croix	Saint Croix Central High School, Commons, 1751 Broadway Street, Hammond, WI 54015
Sauk	UW Baraboo - Sauk County, Giese Lecture Hall A4, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo, WI 53913
Sawyer	Hayward High School, Auditorium, 10320N Greenwood Lane, Hayward, WI 54843
Shawano	Shawano Middle School, Room LGI, 1050 S Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166
Sheboygan	Plymouth High School, Auditorium, 125 Highland Avenue, Plymouth, WI 53073
Taylor	Taylor County Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Building, Hwy 64/Hwy 13, Medford, WI 54451
Trempealeau	Arcadia High School, Room 219, 756 Raider Drive, Arcadia, WI 54612
Vernon	Viroqua High School, Commons, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, WI 54665
Vilas	Saint Germain Elementary School, 8234 Hwy 70 West, Saint Germain, WI 54558
Walworth	Delavan-Darien High School, Large Meeting Room, 150 Cummings Street, Delavan, WI 53115
Washburn	Spooner High School, Auditorium, 801 County Highway A, Spooner, WI 54801
Washington	Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095
Waukesha	Waukesha Co. Tech. College, Richard Anderson Center, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072
Waupaca	Waupaca High School, Auditorium, E2325 King Road, Waupaca, WI 54981
Waushara	Waushara County Courthouse, Board Room 265, 209 S Saint Marie Street, Wautoma, WI 54982
Winnebago	Webster Stanley Middle School, Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Wood	Pittsville School District Admin. Building, Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Ave, Pittsville, WI 54466

The Department of Natural Resources is committed to serving people with disabilities and pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Kari Lee-Zimmermann at (608) 266-0580 with specific information on your request by April 1, 2017.

The rules may be reviewed and comments made at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code> or through the department's website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/ProposedRules.html> no later than April 10, 2017.

Comments may be submitted to the agency contact person: Scott Loomans, 101 South Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, (608) 267-2452, scott.loomans@wisconsin.gov.

Written comments, whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail, will be summarized for the Natural Resources Board, however, they will not be tallied along with the votes received at the county hearings.

PLEASE NOTE: The proposed rule language will be available for your review at each hearing location and is available online at dnr.wi.gov - search "Spring Hearings."



CDAC Spring Quota Recommendations

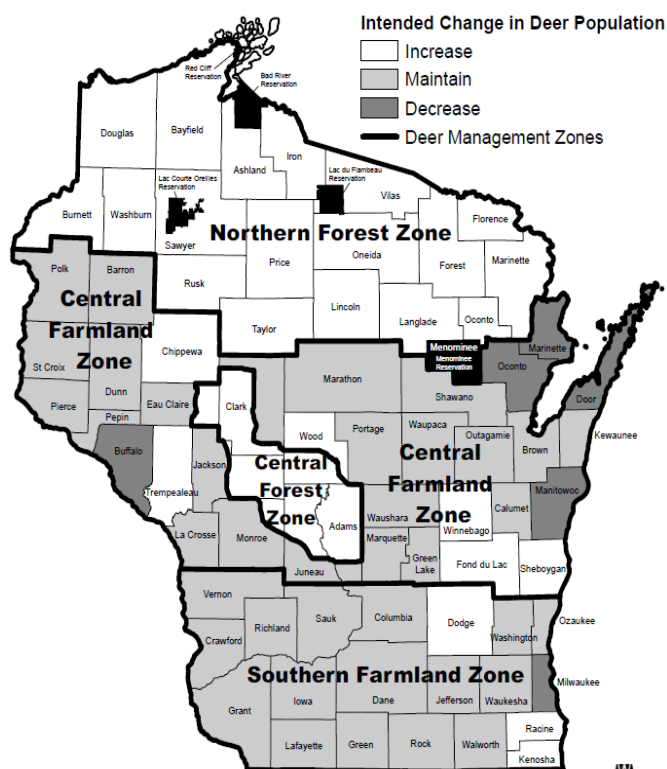


Your County Deer Advisory Council wants **YOUR** input on the proposed 2017 antlerless deer quotas

Visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/cdac.html> to provide your comments.

- ➔ *CDACs are groups of public stakeholders that provide deer management recommendations for each county*
- ➔ *Fall of 2014: CDACs formed deer population objective recommendations (increase, decrease or maintain herd size)*
- ➔ *Spring of 2015 and 2016: CDACs developed antlerless harvest quota recommendations*
- ➔ *Spring of 2017: CDACs will again develop antlerless harvest quota recommendations in your county*
- ➔ *For more information on CDACs: dnr.wi.gov, keyword "CDAC"*

County Deer Advisory Council
2015-2017 Deer Population Objectives



Population objectives are not established for tribal reservation units as identified on this map.



In an effort to bring deer management closer to the local level, the Department of Natural Resources established a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) for each county in Wisconsin in 2014.

Each council provides deer population objective and antlerless harvest quota recommendations to the DNR and Natural Resources Board.

Council membership consists of members of the public who represent agriculture, forestry, transportation, tourism, urban issues, hunting and the Deer Management Assistance Program. Chairs and alternate chairs for the CDACs are selected from among each county's Conservation Congress delegates. Local DNR wildlife, forestry and law

CDAC Charter

- Gather public opinion on deer populations and goals, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies.
- Review and consider scientific metrics on deer herd trends, impacts to habitat and agriculture and human-deer interactions.
- Provide the department with recommendations on deer population objectives, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies.

enforcement liaisons attend CDAC meetings to provide data and answer questions, but are not voting members. All CDAC meetings are open to the public and offer opportunities to provide public comments.

WEIGH IN ON 2017 ANTLERLESS HARVEST QUOTAS AND PERMIT LEVELS

Councils are now developing 2017 antlerless harvest quota and permit level recommendations that will be used to achieve the county's population objectives. CDACs consider a variety of indicators including harvest data, winter severity data and public input when developing quota recommendations for the 2017 deer seasons. The first round of meetings to discuss quota recommendations occurred in March. The public comment period on those recommendations is now open electronically at www.dnr.wi.us/CDAC/. CDACs will determine final recommendations for 2017 antlerless quotas and permit levels at their final meeting in April. A list of meeting locations for each county can be found at dnr.wi.gov, keyword "CDAC" or click on the QR code to the right.



CDAC Resources

CDAC website: visit dnr.wi.gov, keyword "CDAC." The CDAC website is a portal to the meeting schedule, meeting minutes, CDAC recommendations, contact information, and other resources.

- CDAC members and contact information by county: click on the "Find" tab, then enter county name.
- Meeting schedule for spring 2017: click on the "Find" tab, then enter your county name to find meeting schedule, member contact information and county specific data.
- Online public input opportunities: check the CDAC website frequently for updates. Public review of preliminary quota recommendations runs from April 3 – 13, 2017.
- Learn more: check out the frequently asked questions (FAQ tab), or email DNRCDACWebmail@Wisconsin.gov with any other questions.

Important dates: spring meetings will be devoted to quota recommendations.

March 13 – 16 and 20 – 23	Review data and form preliminary 2017 antlerless harvest quota, permit and season structure recommendations.
April 3 - 13	Public comment period.
April 17 – 20	Review public feedback and determine final recommendations.
May 24	Recommendations approved at NRB meeting.

MEMBERSHIP Some councils still have open seats for qualified candidates. If you are interested in applying, visit the CDAC website and determine if your county has seats available. When you are ready to apply, click on the application link. Paper applications may also be available; contact your county's CDAC chair for more information.



Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearing

Please utilize the white ballot to provide your input.

PROPOSED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

QUESTION 1: Consistent last day of the season for archery deer, turkey, pheasant and fisher

The archery deer hunting season has been open through the New Year's Holiday weekend (the Sunday nearest January 6) since a rule change in 2002. The fall turkey and pheasant hunting seasons and the fisher trapping season close on December 31.

This proposal would simplify the season framework and expand opportunities by establishing that all of these seasons are always open on the New Year's Holiday weekend.

The department anticipates no impact on the management of these species by extending the seasons by a handful of days. This is a time of year when hunting and trapping pressure is low. However, the change will provide additional opportunity for the limited number of people who will take advantage of it at a time when many people have an opportunity to use vacation or leave from work.

-
1. Do you support extending the fall turkey and pheasant hunting and the fisher trapping seasons so that they close on the Sunday nearest January 6 so that they would always be open over the New Year's Holiday weekend? 1. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 2: Option to extend archery deer season, in farmland zone units which also have holiday hunts, upon recommendation of County Deer Advisory Councils

Currently the archery and crossbow deer season runs continuously from the Saturday nearest September 15 through the Sunday nearest January 6. This proposal would provide county deer advisory councils with the option of recommending that the archery and crossbow seasons run through January 31 in any unit for a season where they have also recommended a Holiday Hunt firearm season framework for the same year.

Each county in Wisconsin has a County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) to provide input and recommendations to the department on deer management. Councils provide an opportunity for public input, review population data and deer impacts, and develop recommendations for population objectives and antlerless harvest quotas. They can recommend a limited number of deer season framework modifications

such as an antlerless only bag limit or holiday hunts which the department can adopt and which are in place for one season. Making recommendations for an extended archery season would provide another tool available to councils for deer management. Some archers believe that an extended archery hunt would address concerns about lost hunting opportunity while the antlerless only holiday firearm season is open. The ability to recommend an extended season would be limited to units in a farmland zone only, which is consistent with their ability to recommend holiday firearm seasons.

-
2. Do you support providing county deer advisory councils, in farmland zones which have also selected a holiday hunt, with the option to recommend extending archery and crossbow deer seasons through the end of January? 2. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 3: List Eurasian collared doves as an unprotected species

Eurasian collared doves are currently a protected species in Wisconsin because that is the default status for any bird which is not otherwise listed in administrative code. Collared doves are exotic to North America but are relatively common in some states and appear to be establishing themselves in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II, a comprehensive field survey that documents the distribution and abundance of birds in an area, lists observations of collared doves in 24 counties. Collared doves have been encountered by mourning dove hunters and there is potential to inadvertently commit a protected species violation if a collared dove is shot. Classifying them as unprotected species would make it easier to remove collared doves in a nuisance situation and would allow hunter harvest of this exotic species.

Other birds which are listed as unprotected are Starlings, English sparrows, coturnix quail, and chukar partridge.

-
3. Do you favor listing collared doves as an unprotected species? 3. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 4: List monk parrots as a depredating species under wildlife damage and nuisance control rules

Monk parrots are not known to be present at this time but it is possible that they could naturally colonize in Wisconsin, most likely in urban areas. Monk parrots are established and viewed by many as a significant nuisance because of their dense colonies and massive nesting structures in Chicago and other cities. Monk parrots are already listed as a prohibited species under Wisconsin invasive species rules and, in most situations, the possession, transportation, transfer and introduction of monk parrots is prohibited. The department can give permission to people who wish to remove animals. By also listing them as a depredating bird under our nuisance wildlife rules, the requirement that people first get the department's permission to destroy monk parrots when they constitute a nuisance would be eliminated.

Other birds which are listed as depredating species and can be removed only when they are depredating certain crops or are a health hazard or nuisance include cowbirds, crows, grackles, house sparrows, starlings, and red-winged blackbirds.

-
4. Do you favor listing monk parrots as a nuisance species in Wisconsin? 4. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTIONS 5-10: Simplify weapons and ammunition restrictions that currently apply to hunters but which are likely outdated and may not be needed for conservation or safety related purposes

Under current law, there are a number of complex and historic provisions which regulate the use of weapons and ammunition for hunting. While an individual regulation may not be complicated by itself, as a whole these provisions increase regulation complexity despite there being little evidence, other than anecdotal, that they are necessary and appropriate. In general, the current regulations seem to be a historic mix of “hunting ethics” and perceived safety; a new proposal would balance those interests while creating an adaptable framework for future weapon innovations in an overall simplified framework.

It is currently illegal to possess shotgun slugs while hunting unless a firearm deer season is open. The historic purpose of this regulation may have been to prevent illegal deer harvest under the guise of lawful bird hunting. Presently, there is not significant evidence that this prohibition prevents illegal deer harvest, particularly in light of modern firearm seasons being open much longer than they were historically. It would remain unlawful to hunt game birds with shotgun slugs.

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- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 5. Do you favor simplifying regulations by allowing the <u>possession</u> of shotgun slugs at any time while hunting? | 5. YES____ NO____ |
|---|-------------------|
-

The maximum shot size that may be possessed or used while hunting varies based upon the target species and type of shot utilized (e.g. steel, lead). Shot larger than size BB may not be possessed beginning on June 1 and continuing through any open firearm deer seasons except for bobcat hunting. Shot larger than size 4 lead and size 2 steel may not be possessed or used for turkey hunting. These regulations may have been historically based on safety or harvest control, but present data does not show shot size as a necessary restriction to increase safety or to control harvest.

Federal and corresponding state regulations for migratory bird hunting would not be changed. Additionally, it would continue to be illegal to hunt any birds with a single slug or ball.

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- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 6. Do you favor simplifying regulations by eliminating restrictions on the size of shot that may be possessed while hunting except that there would be no change to migratory bird regulations? | 6. YES____ NO____ |
|---|-------------------|
-

Muzzleloading handguns used for deer hunting are required to have a barrel length of at least seven inches. Breech loading handguns used for deer hunting are required to have a barrel length of at least five and one-half inches. Muzzleloading and breech loading handguns used in other hunting situations must have a length of at least four inches. These regulations appear to have little or no purpose related to game conservation. A firearm safety related reason for these regulations is not obvious and these firearms can now be carried legally under the authority of a concealed carry permit or openly while hunting.

-
- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 7. Do you favor simplifying weapon regulations by eliminating minimum barrel length restrictions for handguns that are used for hunting? | 7. YES____ NO____ |
|--|-------------------|
-

It is currently illegal to hunt big game with a .410 bore shotgun or handgun. There may be varying views on the suitability of .410 slugs for various hunting purposes but, regardless, the caliber is not popular or in common use. There may also not be a conservation-related purpose for the restriction, and the kinetic energy produced by .410 slugs may exceed that of multiple firearm projectiles which are currently lawful.

-
- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 8. Do you favor simplifying weapon regulations by eliminating restrictions on the use of .410 caliber firearms? | 8. YES____ NO____ |
|---|-------------------|
-

It is currently legal to hunt hare, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, fox, coyote, bobcat, or unprotected wild animals with pellet guns or pellet handguns of a caliber that is .17 or larger, but it is illegal to use a caliber smaller than .17. There may be varying views on the suitability or even the availability of small caliber pellet guns but, regardless, the calibers are not popular or in common use. There may also not be a conservation-related purpose for the restriction.

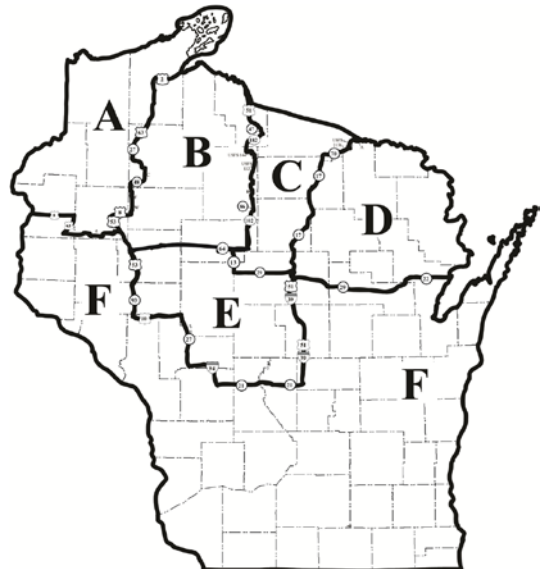
-
9. Do you favor simplifying weapon regulations by eliminating requirements to use pellet guns of at least .17 caliber for hunting hare, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, fox, coyote, bobcat, or unprotected wild animals? 9. YES____ NO____
-

For deer hunting, firearms must be centerfire .22 caliber or larger, bows and crossbows must have minimum draw weights of 30 and 100 pounds respectively, and broad head blades must be seven eighths of an inch wide or more. It may be possible to eliminate outright minimum caliber requirements and draw weights in favor of a subjective reasonableness standard which is similar to current rules, but would accommodate new innovations such as a new rim fire cartridge or more efficient archery gear.

-
10. Do you favor establishing a simplified regulatory framework that no person may hunt with a weapon or ammunition that is of inherent design, or used in such a manner, as to not be reasonably capable of reducing a target wild animal to possession? The following are considered reasonable equipment: 1) a firearm with a caliber of at least .17, 2) a bow with a minimum draw weight of 30 pounds, 3) a crossbow with a minimum draw weight of 100 pounds, 4) a raptor, 5) commercially manufactured or similar hand-loaded or re-loaded ammunition, 6) an arrow or bolt with a sharpened broad-head blade. 10. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 11: Consolidate fisher management zones from the current six so that there would be only two zones which are divided by State Hwy. 64

The extensive six zone configuration for fisher was developed as the species was still expanding its range across the state, but may no longer be needed now that fisher are well established and distributed. This proposal could consolidate fisher management zones from the current six so that there would be only two, a north zone and a south zone. The two zone configuration is a simplification that would be consistent with the current bobcat management zones and proposed otter management zones.

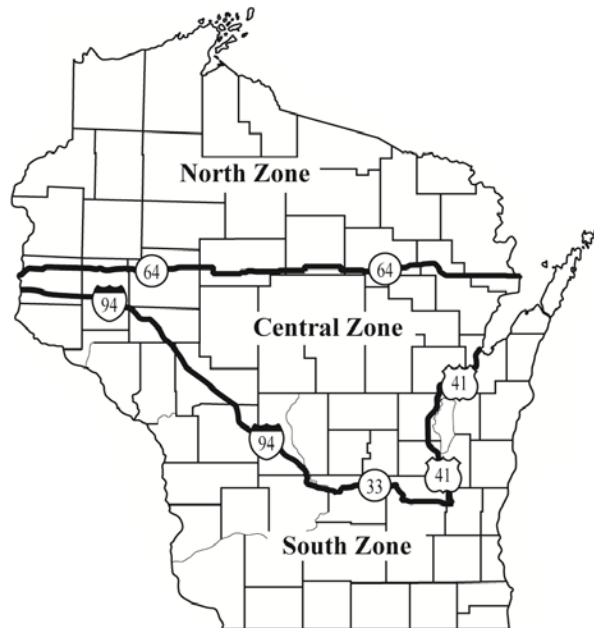


Current fisher management zone configuration

-
11. Do you favor consolidating fisher management zones from the current six so that there would be only two, a north zone and a south zone which are separated by Hwy. 64? 11. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 12-13: Otter management population goal and management zone configuration

Wisconsin currently has an otter population goal of 13,000 animals which is established by administrative rule. However, there are challenges in estimating the otter population because they are an aquatic species that is difficult to survey. Some trappers have expressed concern about current population estimates and the department agrees that otter population estimates may not be precise enough to manage for a population goal of exactly 13,000 river otter. Similarly, the current configuration of three management zones may unnecessarily limit flexibility in where trappers can use their tags. A two zone configuration would be consistent with the bobcat and proposed fisher management zones with a north and a south zone which are divided by Hwy. 64.



Current otter management zone configuration

12. Do you favor managing otters with an objective to maintain stable numbers of animals based on trends in harvest information, aerial surveys and opinion questionnaires conducted by the department, but eliminating the specific population goal of 13,000 otters?

12. YES ____ NO ____

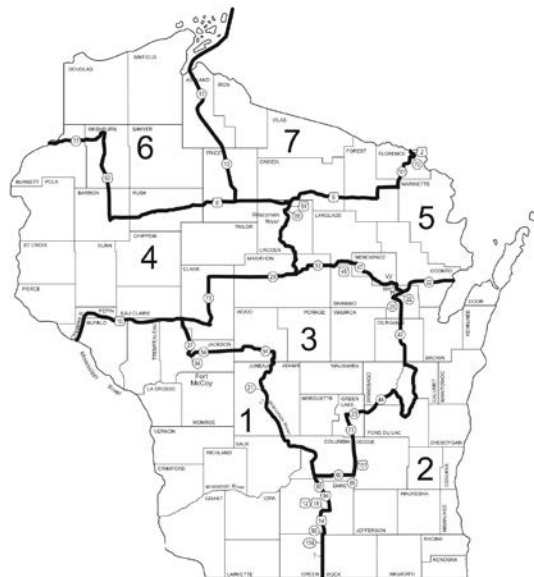
13. Do you favor consolidating otter management zones so that there would be two, a north zone and a south zone divided by Hwy. 64, instead of three?

13. YES ____ NO ____

QUESTION 14: Eliminate the fall turkey permit drawing in favor of over-the-counter issuance

Fall turkey permits are currently allocated through a drawing process and hunters are required to apply in advance. Fall turkey permit issuance, harvest, and success rates have declined over time which would support the possible elimination of the drawing process while still maintaining a safe level of fall harvest. If the drawing were eliminated, each hunter would receive one fall permit with the purchase of their license and turkey stamp, which would be valid in the zone of their choice. Hunters would no longer need to apply for a fall turkey permit by a certain deadline, and would no longer have to pay a \$3.00 application fee.

In zones 1-4, demand for fall turkey permits is largely being met, with some zones having many unissued permits left over at the end of the season. Extra permits would still be available in zones where historically all



Turkey management zone map

of the allocated permits were not issued. These leftover permits would be available on a first-come, first-served basis and would still cost \$10. In zones where fall turkey permits have historically sold out, hunters would be limited to the one permit issued with their license.


The department does not anticipate a negative impact to the turkey population from this change. This would provide increased hunter opportunity and the potential for increased harvest in zones 5-7; however, the additional harvest impact would likely be minimal. In 2015, fewer than 2,000 hunters that applied in zones 5-7 did not receive a fall permit. If these additional hunters received a fall permit, based on recent hen harvest and success rates, this would result in less than an additional 80 hens harvested in the three zones combined.

14. Do you support eliminating the fall turkey permit drawing in favor of over-the-counter issuance? **14.** YES____ NO____

QUESTION 15: Repeal the one-time limit for participating in learn-to-hunt program events

Current regulations prevent novice hunters, anglers and trappers from participating in more than one training event for the same species that involves waivers of regulations such as season dates. This proposal would allow someone to participate in more than one learn-to-hunt event. Some novice hunters feel the need for additional training before becoming a license purchaser. The availability of these courses may allow participation in more than one event while still meeting demand from first time participants and may increase the recruitment of new hunters.

15. Do you favor eliminating the one-time limit for participating in learn-to-hunt program events? **15.** YES____ NO____



BUYING A LICENSE?

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The Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund supports habitat management and ensures the future care and enjoyment of our publicly owned lands and waters. This includes our state parks, state natural areas, state wildlife areas and state fisheries areas.

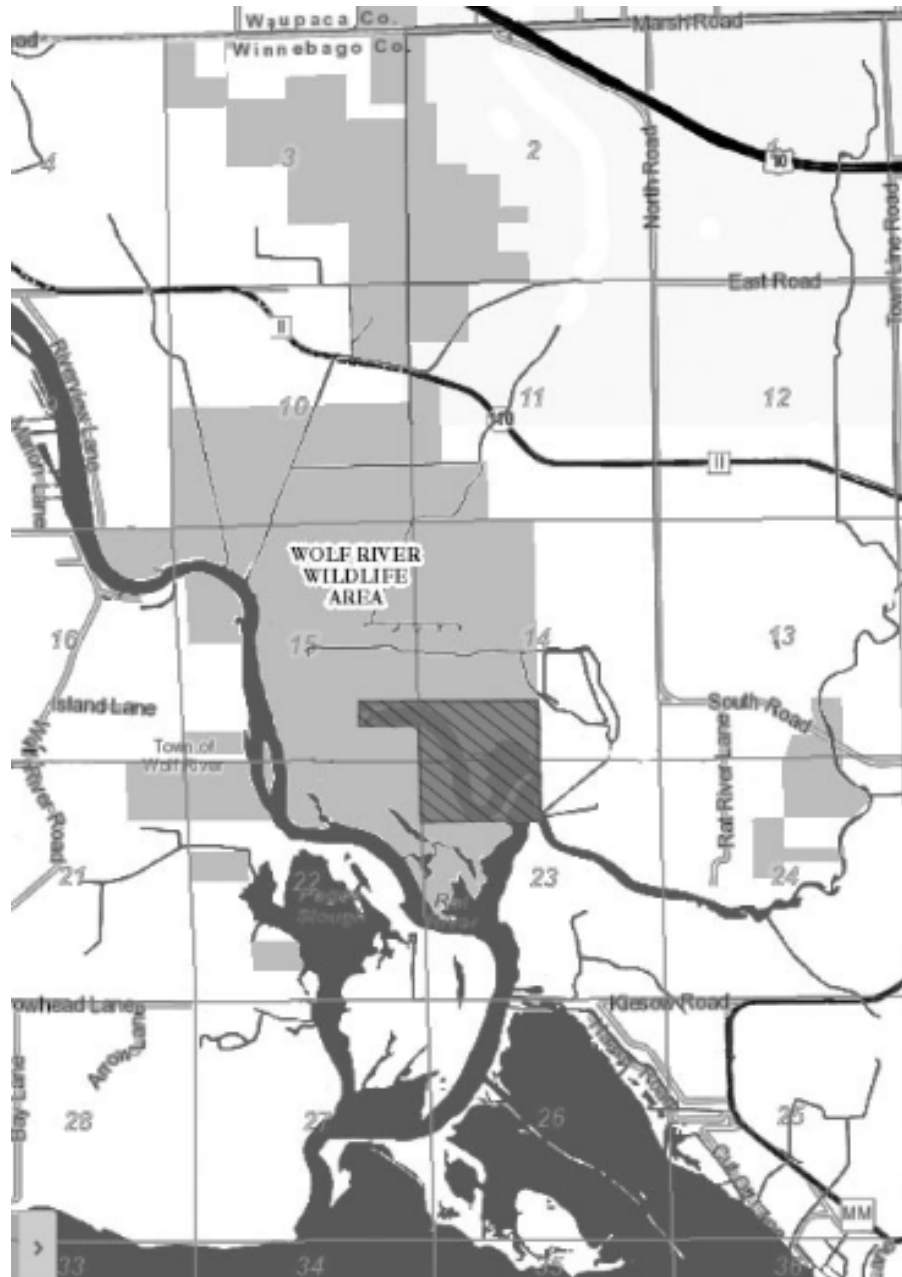
Donations to the Cherish Wisconsin Outdoors Fund are tax-deductible, and can be made when purchasing a hunting or fishing license or online at CherishWisconsin.org

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PROPOSED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT LOCAL RULE CHANGES

QUESTION 16: Eliminate the Wolf River waterfowl closed area in Winnebago County, Town of Wolf River

There is currently a waterfowl closed area in the Town of Wolf River in Winnebago County, known locally to some as the Rat River refuge. Upon approval of the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area (LWRBNRA) Master Plan the department was to evaluate the effectiveness of certain refuges in the area. The area does not receive significant use by waterfowl and the department feels that this closed area is no longer needed for management of waterfowl or for enhancing hunting opportunities in the area. Eliminating the closed area would provide some additional hunting opportunities in the area.

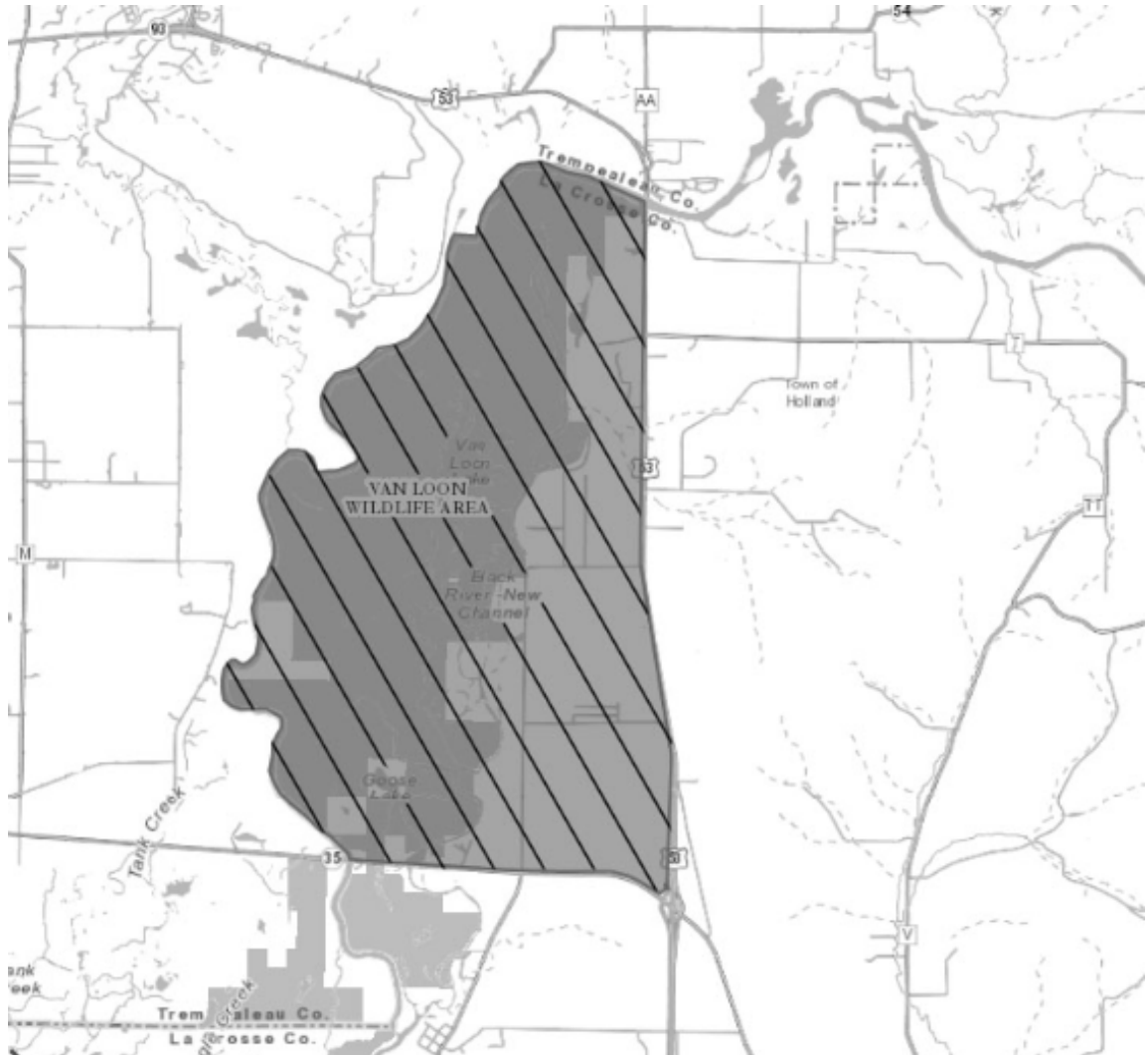


16. Do you favor eliminating the Wolf River Closed Area in the Town of Wolf River in Winnebago County, Township 20 north, range 14 east?

16. YES _____ **NO** _____

QUESTION 17: Eliminate the Van Loon beaver and otter trapping closed area in the Town of Holland in La Crosse County

A majority of the Van Loon wildlife area is closed to trapping for beaver and otter. The department is not aware of any current property or species management purpose for this closed area. Members of the public have requested that the department allow trapping here.



17. Do you favor eliminating the beaver and otter trapping closed area at the Van Loon wildlife area in the Town of Holland in La Crosse County, Township 18 north, range 8 west?

17. YES____ NO____

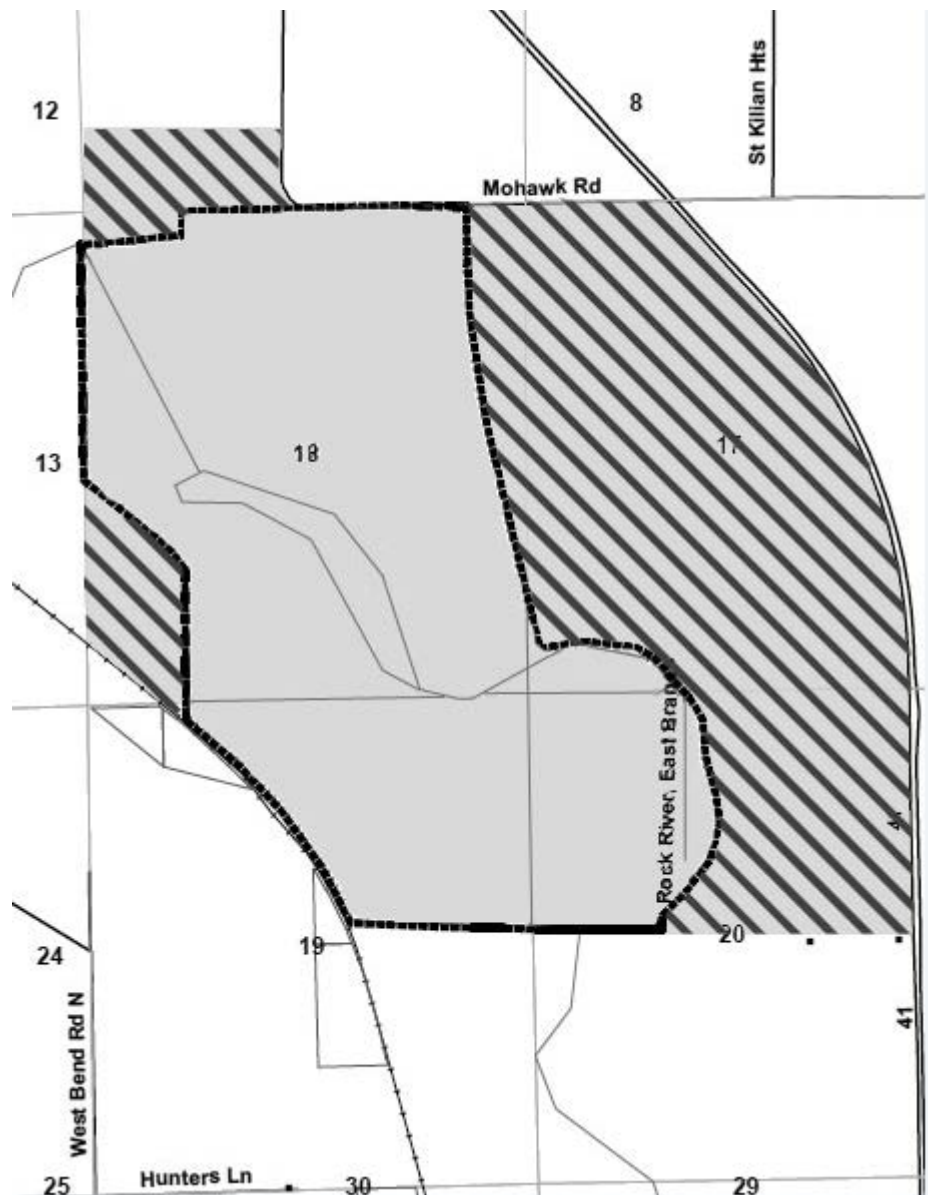
QUESTION 18: Reduce the size of the Theresa Marsh wildlife refuge in Dodge and Washington counties

This proposal would reduce the size of refuge areas at Theresa Marsh wildlife refuge in Dodge and Washington counties and reduce the length of the closure periods.

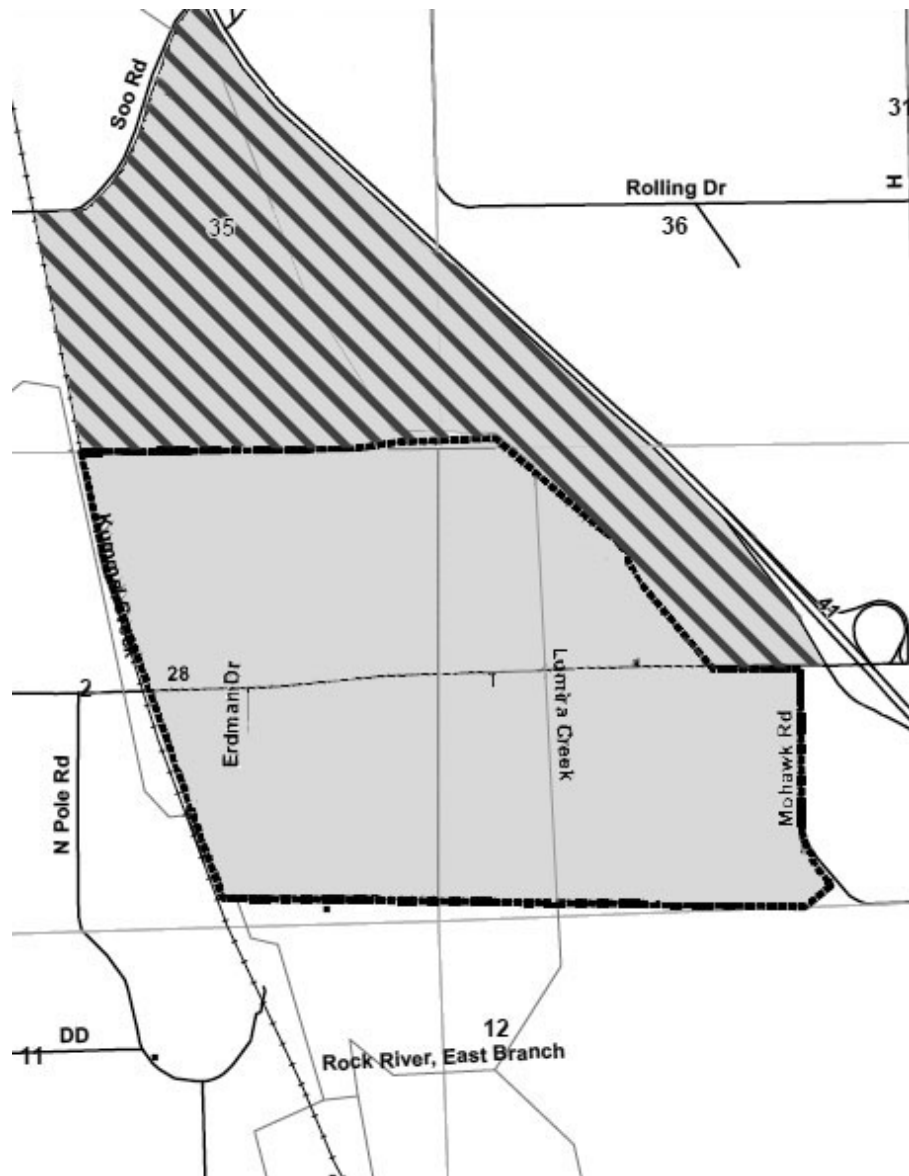
The original total acreage of the two refuges was about 2,476 acres - 1,347 acres in the south refuge and 1,139 in the north refuge. The total combined acreage of the downsized refuges would be about 1,487 acres - 774 acres in the south refuge and 713 acres in the north refuge.

The refuges are currently closed beginning on September 1 and continuing through November 30 except that firearm deer hunting is always allowed. Under this proposal, the refuge would be closed only through November 15 and it would be open for all uses after that. This change simplifies regulations by allowing all users entry into the refuges at the same time and would be consistent with the nearby Sheboygan Marsh. Migratory waterfowl use in the shallow impoundments typically drops by November 16 with freeze over.

These changes are a recommendation of the master plan for the “Northern Kettle Moraine Region Wildlife, Fish and Natural Areas,” which included Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area and eight other state properties, and will substantially increase opportunities for upland game hunting, trapping, hiking and other public uses.



Washington County portion, the area being removed from refuge is shown in crosshatching.



Dodge County portion, the area being removed from refuge is shown in crosshatching

18. Do you favor reducing the size of refuge areas at Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area in Dodge and Washington counties and allowing entry after November 15?

18. YES____ NO____

STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RULE CHANGES

QUESTION 19: Trolling

“Trolling” means trailing a lure or bait from a boat being propelled by any means other than drifting or rowing. Trolling is currently allowed with at least 1 hook, bait or lure (i.e., 1 “line”) per angler (and a maximum of 2 hooks, baits or lures per boat) on all inland waters; on many waters, up to 3 hooks, baits or lures (i.e., 3 “lines”) may be used per angler.

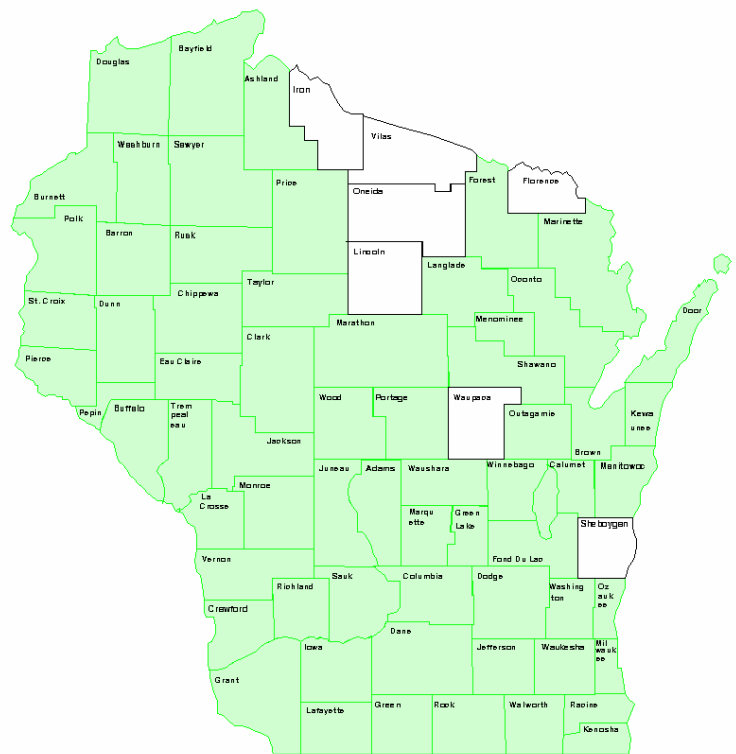
At the 2014 Spring Hearings, a proposal to allow trolling with 1 line per angler in 17 counties (excluding 31 waters already open to trolling with 3 lines per angler) and to allow trolling with 3 lines per angler in the other 55 counties was supported by a vote of 3,646 (Yes) to 2,250 (No), with 61 counties in favor and 11 counties opposed. This proposal was adopted by the Natural Resources Board in 2014 with 2 modifications: 1) a maximum of 2 lines per boat was established; and 2) a sunset of April 2018, was added, meaning that if not renewed, this rule would revert back to pre-2015 trolling rules.

The department is proposing minor revisions to the current rule: 1) eliminate exceptions within counties; 2) address comments received on the 2-line per boat maximum; and 3) eliminate the sunset. Under this proposal, trolling would be allowed with 1 line per angler (and a maximum of 3 lines per boat) in Florence, Iron, Lincoln, Oneida, Sheboygan, Vilas and Waupaca Counties; and trolling would be allowed with 3 lines per angler in the remaining 65 counties.

Trolling has had no adverse biological impacts where this method is already legal. Allowing trolling with at least 1 line per angler: 1) eliminates confusion about where trolling is legal; 2) allows anglers to trail a sucker or other minnow and cast and retrieve another lure while the boat is moving; 3) eliminates the need for disabled anglers to apply for a trolling permit; and 4) provides opportunities for anglers with physical limitations that make fishing by other methods difficult.

2017 Trolling Proposal

- 3 hooks, baits or lures per angler**
- 1 hook, bait or lure per angler;
maximum of 3 hooks, baits, or lures per boat**



19. Do you favor allowing trolling with 1 hook, bait, or lure per angler (and a maximum of 3 hooks, baits or lures per boat) in Florence, Iron, Lincoln, Oneida, Sheboygan, Vilas and Waupaca Counties and allowing trolling with 3 hooks, baits or lures per angler in all other waters?

19. YES _____ NO _____

QUESTION 20: Local hearing process

This proposal would create a process separate from the Spring Hearings to change a regulation to the statewide/general regulation or in response to fish consumption advice. This process may only be used on individual lakes or a chain of lakes, not, for example, on the Great Lakes or a lengthy river system. When fish consumption advice for species includes “do not eat” for any group of people, a no minimum size limit or a maximum size limit fishing regulation may be provided recognizing the sizes of that species that have “do not eat” advice applied. In cases where all sizes of a species have “do not eat” advice, the bag limit could be set to zero.

Currently the process for changing most recreational fishing regulations takes 2 to 3 years and the proposals all have public input at the statewide Fish and Wildlife Spring Hearings. This new process would still involve a local public notice and public hearing and notification to the local Conservation Congress delegates. The Department would have more flexibility to provide a quicker response to changing fish population conditions.

20. Do you favor having an optional, shorter regulation change process to change a regulation to the statewide/general regulation or in response to a fish consumption advisory? **20.** YES____ NO____

QUESTION 21: Bass harvest opportunity

This proposal affects all waters of the State that currently have a protected ‘slot limit’ regulation for black bass: largemouth and smallmouth. The current regulation is “3 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed.” The proposal will make no change to the size limits associated with this regulation, but will increase the associated bag limit from 3 bass per day to 5 bass per day in all places where this rule is used now and in the future.

The management goal of the slot limit is to improve bass growth and size structure by increasing harvest of smaller bass, and ultimately providing a bass fishery with a more desirable mix of ages and sizes. Increasing the bag limit associated with this regulation from 3 to 5 bass per day should increase the management effectiveness of the regulation by increasing harvest of bass less than 14 inches in length. Most lakes managed using a slot limit for bass currently have a 3 per day bag limit, although some do have a 5 bass per day bag limit; making this change makes bag limits in lakes managed with bass slot limits consistent on a statewide level.

The following waters are currently managed with a slot limit for bass using a 3 per day bag limit, and would be immediately affected by the increased daily bag: Gile Flowage (Iron County), Trump Lake (Forest County), Glen, Bass and Squaw Lakes (St. Croix County), Eagle Spring and Lake Lulu Lakes and connecting portions of the Mukwonago River (Walworth and Waukesha counties), Halfmoon Lake (Eau Claire County), Big and Little Dummy Lakes (Barron County), Big Bass and Mission Lakes (Marathon County), Brekk Lake (Waupaca County), Pigeon Lake (Bayfield County), Oneida Lake (Oneida County) and Lilly Lake (Brown County).

21. Do you favor increasing the daily bag limit from 3 bass to 5 bass on waters where bass harvest is managed with a ‘slot limit’ (no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed)? **21.** YES____ NO____

PROPOSED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT LOCAL RULE CHANGES

QUESTION 22: Walleye—Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, and Vilas counties

Increase the minimum length limit for walleye to 18 inches and decrease the daily bag limit to 3 (Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties), and also in Lac Vieux Desert, on the Wisconsin-Michigan border in Vilas County.

This proposal would apply an 18-inch minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 3 for walleye, sauger and their hybrids on all inland waters of Kenosha, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties (except Lac LaBelle, which will remain at a 28-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 1); Kettle Moraine Lake, Long and Tittle Lakes, and Wolf Lake, Fond du Lac County; and Lake Leota, Rock County.

Currently, the statewide minimum length limit for walleye, sauger and hybrids is 15 inches and the daily bag limit is 5. The management goal of the proposed change is to increase the density of adult walleye, increase maximum sustainable yield and improve natural reproduction. The department is currently investing significant resources in stocking of large fall fingerling walleyes in these waters. However, walleye in southeast Wisconsin are often not reaching their full growth potential because intensive angling pressure on these waters leads to overharvest of quality size walleye. This proposal is one tool that will help improve the average size and abundance of walleye. This regulation will also allow female walleyes to spawn at least 1 more year before they are legal for harvest. The department will strongly consider county-by-county votes when deciding how to implement this proposal.

The proposal would also apply an 18-inch minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 3 for walleye, sauger and their hybrids in Lac Vieux Desert, on the Wisconsin-Michigan border (Vilas County). After repeated year-class failures, the walleye population in Lac Vieux Desert has declined to less than 0.5 adult walleye per acre. The Department has initiated fall fingerling stocking in an attempt to rehabilitate the population. As a mechanism to protect those walleye to adulthood and allow them the potential to spawn at least once before harvest, the Department proposes this regulation. The current size limit is 15 inches, with a 3 walleye daily bag limit.

22. Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit for walleye, sauger and their hybrids from 15 inches to 18 inches and reducing the daily bag limit from 5 to 3 on all inland waters of Kenosha, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties (except Lac LaBelle); Kettle Moraine Lake, Long and Tittle Lakes, and Wolf Lake, Fond du Lac County; and Lake Leota, Rock County, and additionally in Lac Vieux Desert, Vilas County?

22. YES_____ NO_____

QUESTION 23: Jackson, Monroe, Trempealeau, and La Crosse counties

This proposal would apply a continuous open fishing season to the Black River downstream of the dam in Black River Falls, Jackson County, to the Burlington Northern Railroad Tracks crossing upstream of Lake Onalaska in La Crosse County. This includes all bays, backwaters, and sloughs connected to the lower Black River and all associated tributaries up to the first road crossing or dam. Hook and line fishing will be open all year for all fish species except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish and threatened or endangered fish. The current fishing season length is that of the general inland fishing season length (from the first

Saturday in May through the first full weekend of the following March). The management goal is to increase angling opportunity while maintaining, on average, characteristics of the current gamefish populations.

-
23. Do you favor applying a continuous open fishing season to the Black River downstream of the dam in Black River Falls, Jackson County, to the Burlington Northern Railroad Tracks crossing upstream of Lake Onalaska in La Crosse County? This includes all bays, backwaters, and sloughs connected to the lower Black River and all associated tributaries up to the first road crossing or dam. Hook and line fishing will be open all year for all fish species except muskellunge, lake sturgeon, trout, paddlefish, and threatened or endangered fish. Current size and bag limits will still apply. 23. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 24: Trout—Sawyer County

This proposal would remove the minimum length limit for trout and set the daily bag limit at 5 trout in total for Beaver Creek, Maple Creek and Maple Springs, and Buckhorn Creek and Buckhorn Springs in Sawyer County.

The current regulation is a minimum length limit of 8 inches and a daily bag limit of 3 trout in total. The management goal is a harvest oriented fishery and this proposal would allow more trout harvest opportunities. It is currently not being met because regulations are more restrictive than they need to be based on current conditions and public feedback provided to the local biologist.

-
24. Do you favor applying no minimum length limit for trout and a daily bag limit of 5 trout in total to Beaver Creek, Maple Creek and Maple Springs, and Buckhorn Creek and Buckhorn Springs in Sawyer County? 24. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 25: Trout—Langlade County

This proposal would apply a 17-inch minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 2 lake trout with a season from the first Saturday in January through September 30th in Goto Lake, Langlade County. This would match general statewide regulations for inland lake trout. The current regulation is no minimum length limit and 5 fish daily bag limit with a season from the first Saturday in May through October 15th.

The management goal is to maintain lake trout as the dominant sport fish in Goto Lake by protecting young lake trout in hopes they may successfully reproduce or at the very least, provide for a quality angling experience for quality sized lake trout. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because immature lake trout will be protected from harvest, thus giving them an opportunity to grow and mature into the adult population. A higher abundance of quality sized lake trout will provide additional angling opportunities for this unique species that does not currently exist in the county.

-
25. Do you favor applying a 17-inch minimum length limit and a daily bag limit of 2 lake trout with a season from the first Saturday in January through September 30th in Goto Lake, Langlade County? 25. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 26: Bass harvest opportunity—Adams, Marquette, Florence, Polk, Sauk, and Walworth counties

The following water bodies would be affected by this rule change, if approved: Parker Lake (Adams County), Mason Lake (Adams and Marquette counties), Cosgrove and Little Cosgrove Lakes (Florence County), Deer Lake, Wapogasset and Bear Trap Lakes (Polk County), Devils Lake (Sauk County), Lauderdale Lakes—Green, Middle, and Mill— (Walworth County).

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; however, all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and harvest of only 1 fish greater than 18 inches would be allowed. The current regulation is a 14-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 5 fish.

The management goal of the proposed slot limit is to improve bass growth and size structure by increasing harvest of smaller bass, and ultimately providing a bass fishery with a more desirable mix of ages and sizes. This will provide a bass fishery with both more harvest opportunity and more large fish available to anglers. The management goal is currently not being met because of an overabundant population of small (less than 14-inch) bass. One objective is to decrease overall bass abundance. The second objective is to decrease the amount of time it takes a bass to grow to 14 inches. The third objective is to increase the percentage of the bass population that is larger than 14 inches. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased harvest of small bass is expected to improve growth rates by reducing competition, preserve a range of sizes by protecting 14 to 18-inch bass, and provide an additional harvest opportunity.

26. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass, however all bass from 14 to 18 inches must be released and only 1 fish greater than 18 inches is allowed, on Parker Lake (Adams County), Mason Lake (Adams and Marquette Counties), Cosgrove and Little Cosgrove Lakes (Florence County), Deer Lake, Wapogasset and Bear Trap Lakes (Polk County), Devils Lake (Sauk County) and Lauderdale Lakes—Green, Middle, and Mill— (Walworth County)?

26. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 27: Bass harvest opportunity—Forest and Oconto counties

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass on Jungle Lake and Lake Lucerne in Forest County, and on Kelly Lake, Oconto County. The current regulation is a 14-inch minimum length limit and daily bag of 5 fish.

The management goal is to improve bass growth and size structure. It is currently not being met because of an overabundant population of small (less than 14 inches), slow-growing largemouth bass. This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased harvest of small bass is expected to improve growth rates by reducing competition. Very slow growth in these lakes makes a “no minimum” regulation a better fit than a protected slot.

27. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass on Jungle Lake and Lake Lucerne (Forest County) and Kelly Lake, Oconto County?

27. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 28: Quality bass management—Bayfield, Douglas, and Sawyer counties

This proposal would apply an 18-inch minimum length limit and 1 fish daily bag limit to smallmouth bass and no minimum length limit for largemouth bass, with a combined daily bag limit of 5 bass.

The management goal is a high quality smallmouth bass fishery and low density largemouth bass fishery. It is currently not being met because smallmouth bass are not always meeting their size potential and largemouth bass are becoming more abundant.

This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because it will protect smallmouth bass until they reach larger sizes that are more preferred for anglers and will allow harvest of slow growing largemouth bass which have become abundant.

28. Do you favor applying a minimum length limit of 18 inches and a daily bag limit of 1 for smallmouth bass, while applying no minimum length limit to largemouth bass and retaining a combined 5 bass daily bag limit on Lake Owen, Upper Eau Claire, Atkins, Diamond, Namekagon (including Garden and Jackson), Middle Eau Claire in Bayfield County; Lower Eau Claire, Lake Nebagamon, Bond Lake, Upper St. Croix and Whitefish Lake in Douglas County; Whitefish Lake and Grindstone Lake (including Little Grindstone) in Sawyer County?

28. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 29: Bass research—Vilas County

This proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 14-inch maximum length limit on smallmouth bass in Nebish Lake, Vilas County. This proposal would also allow the use of fish for bait in Nebish Lake, Vilas County. The current regulation is a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 9 to 12-inch protected slot length limit on smallmouth bass with use of baitfish by anglers prohibited.

Nebish Lake is a 93 acre seepage lake with a fish community dominated by smallmouth bass and yellow perch. Nebish Lake is one of five lakes in the Northern Highland Fisheries Research Area near Boulder Junction where a compulsory creel census is ongoing since 1946. The management goal is to improve smallmouth bass growth, size structure, and trophy potential in Nebish Lake. It is currently not being met because of an overabundant population of small (less than 14 inches) smallmouth bass. The objective is to increase the proportion of smallmouth bass over 14 inches from 8% to over 50% within the next 10 years. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal because increased harvest of small bass is expected to improve growth rates by reducing competition and smallmouth bass greater than 14 inches will be protected.

The proposed regulation is not used elsewhere in Wisconsin, and applying it on Nebish Lake would allow DNR Northern Highlands Fishery Research Staff to study the effect of the regulation.

29. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and a 14-inch maximum length limit on smallmouth bass and the allowance of fish for bait in Nebish Lake, Vilas County?

29. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 30: Quality bass management—Dane, Vilas and Lincoln counties

Increase the minimum length limit from 14 inches to 18 inches and reduce the daily bag limit from 5 in total to 1 fish in total in Lake Wingra (Dane County), Bass and Long lakes (Lincoln County), and Annabelle, Boulder, and Razorback Lakes (Vilas County).

The current 14-inch minimum size limit and 5 fish bag limit is not adequate to provide a quality bass fishery in Annabelle, Boulder, and Razorback Lakes (Vilas County). It is recommended that the bass regulation on these lakes be changed to an 18-inch minimum and 1 fish bag limit. This regulation should maintain bass catch rates and increase numbers and size of bass present, providing additional angler opportunity and helping control rusty crayfish.

Similarly, in Bass and Long Lakes (Lincoln County) the management goal is to maintain largemouth bass as the dominant predator fish in Bass and Long Lakes by protecting bass from excessive harvest. This will result in a larger largemouth bass population with improved size quality and provide a largemouth bass fishery with a mix of ages and sizes. A higher density largemouth bass population should result in better predatory control on the abundant and predominantly small sized and slow-growing bluegill population. This in turn will allow the bluegill to grow faster and reach a larger and more desirable size for anglers. Improved bluegill size quality is also a major objective of this regulation proposal. A higher abundance of largemouth bass will provide additional angling opportunities, will maximize predation on small fishes, and will help achieve a more balanced fish community.

This proposal would also apply an 18-inch minimum length limit and 1 fish daily bag limit on largemouth bass in Lake Wingra, Dane County. The current regulation is a 14-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of 5 fish, which has not proven adequate to provide a quality bass fishery. Improvements in water clarity resulting from a 2008 carp removal project have positively impacted the bass and bluegill populations as measured by growth rate, average size, and abundance. The goal is to improve a bass fishery with greater average size and a greater abundance of bass larger than 14 inches. An increase in largemouth bass will also increase the predation on bluegills and improve bluegill growth and size.

30. Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit from 14 inches to 18 inches and reducing the daily bag limit from 5 to 1 in total for bass on Annabelle, Boulder, and Razorback Lakes in Vilas County, in Bass and Long Lakes (Lincoln County) and on Lake Wingra in Dane County?

30. YES ____ NO ____

QUESTION 31: Quality muskellunge management—Dane, Lafayette, Portage, Sawyer, and Vilas counties

Change the minimum length limit for muskellunge from 45 inches (or catch and release) to 50 inches on eight waters in Adams, Dane, Juneau, Lafayette, Portage, Sawyer, Vilas and Wood counties.

This proposal would increase the minimum length limit for muskellunge from 45 inches to 50 inches on the Wisconsin River from DuBay Dam to Castle Rock Dam, Adams, Juneau, Portage and Wood counties; Lakes Monona, Waubesa, and Wingra, Dane County; Chippewa River, Winter Dam to Arpin Dam, Sawyer County; Little Saint Germain Lake and Trout Lake, Vilas County; and change the harvest regulation for muskellunge from “catch and release only” to a 50” minimum length limit on Yellowstone Lake, Lafayette County.

This change reduces the number of regulatory options used for trophy management by consolidating all “trophy” muskellunge waters into one length-limit category (50-inch minimum). The management goal for these waters, to provide a low-density, trophy muskellunge fishery, will not change. These trophy waters have had either a 45-inch minimum length limit or have been catch and release for 10 years or more. In a

recent mail survey, 63% of musky anglers defined a “trophy” as 50 inches or larger. Based on the growth potential of these populations and angler interest in catching 50-inch+ fish, the department recommends standardizing all trophy muskellunge length limits at 50 inches, rather than having 3 options (45-inch, 50-inch, and catch and release). The 50-inch minimum length limit has been in effect on 20 other waters, some since 1996. This change was specifically supported for the central Wisconsin River at the local level by a citizen resolution, introduced at the spring hearings in 2012, and was subsequently supported statewide as a Conservation Congress Advisory Question (1,989 Yes, 1,016 No) in 2013. This change was also specifically supported for Trout Lake (Vilas County) at the local level by a citizen resolution that was introduced at the 2015 spring hearings, and was subsequently supported statewide as a Conservation Congress Advisory Question (1,809 Yes, 1,140 No) in 2016.

31. Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit for muskellunge from 45 inches to 50 inches on the Wisconsin River from DuBay Dam to Castle Rock Dam, Adams, Juneau, Portage and Wood counties; Lakes Monona, Waubesa, and Wingra, Dane County; Chippewa River, Winter Dam to Arpin Dam, Sawyer County; Little Saint Germain Lake and Trout Lake, Vilas County; and changing the harvest regulation for muskellunge from “catch and release only” to a 50-inch minimum length limit on Yellowstone Lake, Lafayette County?

31. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 32: Quality muskellunge management—Adams, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Juneau, Marinette, Oneida, Rusk, Sauk, Vilas, and Walworth counties

Increase the minimum length limit for muskellunge from 40 inches to 50 inches on 10 waters in Adams, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Juneau, Marinette, Oneida, Rusk, Sauk, Sawyer, Vilas and Walworth counties.

This proposal would increase the minimum length limit from 40 inches to 50 inches for muskellunge in the Wisconsin River, from Castle Rock Dam (Adams and Juneau counties) downstream to the WI & Southern Railroad Bridge, Sauk City (Columbia, Dane and Sauk counties) including Kilbourn Flowage and Lake Wisconsin; Lake Wissota, Chippewa County; Holcombe Flowage, Chippewa and Rusk counties; High Falls Flowage and Caldron Falls Flowage, Marinette County; Katherine Lake and Willow Flowage, Oneida County; Whitefish Lake, Sawyer County; North and South Twin Lakes, Vilas County; and Lake Geneva, Walworth County.

These proposals have good local support, based on past outreach efforts, resolutions and advisory questions. The proposal for the Lower Wisconsin River was supported at the local level by several citizen resolutions that were introduced at the Spring Hearings in 2009 (Columbia, Dane, Juneau and Sauk counties—174 Yes, 46 No), 2010 (Juneau County—21 Yes, 7 No) and 2016 (Adams County—15 Yes, 5 No). The proposal for Lakes Wissota and Holcombe were supported at the local level by citizen resolutions that were introduced in 6 counties at the spring hearings in 2014 (244 Yes, 100 No). Katherine Lake and Willow Flowage proposals were supported at the local level by a citizen resolution introduced at the 2016 spring hearings in Oneida County. The proposal for Whitefish Lake was supported at the local level by a citizen resolution introduced at the 2009 spring hearings in Sawyer County and, in 2010, was supported statewide as a Conservation Congress Advisory Question (1,465 Yes, 957 No). The proposal for North and South Twin Lakes, Vilas County, was supported at the local level by a citizen resolution that was introduced at the 2015 spring hearings in Vilas County and in 2016, was supported statewide as a Conservation Congress Advisory Question (1,689 Yes, 1,106 No).

The goal is to provide trophy muskellunge fishing in these waters, where muskellunge have the proven potential to reach 50 inches. Based on available data, annual angler harvest must be less than 5% in order to produce trophy muskellunge fishing. Harvest occurs at a low level, but the potential for harvest still exists.

For low density species such as muskellunge, any amount of harvest impacts the number of trophy fish in the population. The objective is to insure that at least 10% of the population is larger than 45 inches.

-
32. Do you favor increasing the minimum length limit for muskellunge from 40 inches to 50 inches in the Wisconsin River, from Castle Rock dam (Adams and Juneau counties) downstream to the WI & Southern Railroad Bridge, Sauk City (Columbia, Dane and Sauk counties) including Kilbourn Flowage and Lake Wisconsin; Lakes Wissota and Holcombe, Chippewa and Rusk counties; High Falls Flowage and Caldron Falls Flowage, Marinette County; Katherine Lake and Willow Flowage, Oneida County; Whitefish Lake, Sawyer County; North and South Twin Lake, Vilas County; and Lake Geneva, Walworth County? 32. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 33: Quality Northern Pike management—Waukesha County

This proposal is to extend the sunset clause from 2018 to 2021 for further evaluation of the current 40-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of one northern pike per day on Big Muskego Lake and Bass Bay in Waukesha County. This regulation has been in place since 2010. Preliminary results suggest significant improvements to the size structure and abundance of northern pike on Big Muskego and Bass Bay, but an extension of the sunset clause will allow further study of the regulation's impacts. A question to either make the rule permanent or adopt a different rule would be offered at the 2021 spring hearings.

-
33. Do you favor extending the sunset clause from 2018 to 2021 for further evaluation of the current 40-inch minimum length limit and daily bag limit of one northern pike per day on Big Muskego Lake and Bass Bay in Waukesha County? 33. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 34: Northern Pike harvest opportunity—Racine County

The proposal would apply a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on northern pike in Browns Lake, Racine County. The current regulation is a daily bag limit of 2 fish and 26-inch minimum length limit.

The management goal is to reduce the abundance of northern pike, which are currently overpopulated and stunted in Browns Lake. Quality pike fishing is not currently being provided by the 26-inch minimum length limit, as legal fish are rarely captured by DNR crews or anglers. The objective is to reduce northern pike abundance and improve size structure through decreased competition. The regulation proposal allows anglers to harvest more and smaller pike to improve the population as a whole and the overall fishing experience in Browns Lake. Staff will reevaluate this proposal in the coming years with follow-up fisheries assessments.

-
34. Do you favor applying a daily bag limit of 5 fish and no minimum length limit on northern pike in Browns Lake, Racine County? 34. YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 35: Quality panfish management—Oconto, Oneida, and Rock counties

This proposal would reduce the daily bag limit for panfish from 25 to 10 in Wheeler Lake (Oconto County); Bearskin Lake (Oneida County); and Lake Leota (Rock County).

The management goal of a 10-fish daily bag limit for panfish is to manage for a panfish population of moderate numbers with a quality proportion of memorable-sized fish. Under the present 25 fish bag limit in these lakes, high harvest pressure either reduces abundance to less than desirable numbers or leads to poor size structure. This regulation is one tool to help meet the management goal as it reduces harvest of adult, spawning stock individuals within the population.

35. Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for panfish from 25 to 10 in Wheeler Lake (Oconto County); Bearskin Lake (Oneida County); and Lake Leota (Rock County)? 35. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 36: Quality panfish management—Iron County

This proposal would reduce the daily bag limit for panfish from 25 to 10 and apply a minimum length limit of 10 inches on black crappies in Gile Flowage (Iron County).

The management goal is to manage for a panfish population of low-moderate numbers with a quality proportion of memorable-sized fish. Under the present regulation, although the size structure is on-par with management goals, panfish abundances are lower than desired.

This regulation proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal as it reduces harvest of adult, spawning stock individuals within the population, important for enhancing natural recruitment to sustain slightly higher abundances of panfish in the Gile Flowage.

36. Do you favor reducing the daily bag limit for panfish from 25 to 10 and applying a 10-inch minimum length limit in Gile Flowage (Iron County)? 36. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 37: Panfish harvest opportunity—Racine County

This proposal would apply the statewide regulation of a daily bag limit of 25 fish and no minimum length limit for panfish in Eagle Lake, Racine County. The current regulation is a daily bag limit of 10 fish and an 8-inch minimum length limit.

This regulation proposal will provide Eagle Lake anglers with a panfish harvest opportunity in a system that has multiple strong year classes of perch and bluegill. Higher angler harvest of panfish is also consistent with the restrictive bass and pike regulations on Eagle Lake, all of which will help accomplish the management goal of preventing stunting among the abundant panfish population. The current restrictive panfish regulation does not accomplish these goals.

37. Do you favor applying the statewide regulation of a daily bag limit of 25 fish and no minimum length limit for panfish in Eagle Lake, Racine County? 37. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 38: Quality panfish management—Price County

This proposal would apply a consistent 25/10 panfish harvest regulation in connected waters of the Elk River downstream from Musser Dam. Anglers could keep up to 25 panfish daily but no more than 10 of any one species from Soo Lake (also called Lac Sault Dore), Grassy Lake, and the Elk River between Jobes and Wiemer dams (combined).

The current regulation on these waters downstream of Jobes Dam is a daily bag limit of 25 panfish in any combination, whereas upstream the proposed 25/10 regulation has been in effect on Solberg Lake, the Phillips Chain of Lakes, Squaw Creek, and the Elk River between Musser and Jobes dams since April 2016.

The management goal is to simplify fishing regulations and increase bluegill and black crappie size in the Elk River watershed. Our goals are currently not met because different panfish harvest rules apply to connected waters upstream and downstream of Jobes Dam on the Phillips Chain of Lakes.

This proposal is one tool to help meet the management goal because recent changes to walleye regulations should assure enough predation to control panfish abundance and keep bluegills and black crappies growing at satisfactory rates.

38. Do you favor allowing anglers to keep up to 25 panfish daily but no more than 10 of any one species from Soo Lake (also called Lac Sault Dore), Grassy Lake, and the Elk River between Jobes and Wiemer dams (combined) in Price County?	38. YES____ NO____
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NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 39: Hook-and-line muskellunge harvest tag

Wisconsin currently has a muskellunge daily bag limit of 1. The general statewide length limit is 40 inches, but many individual lakes have different length limits. Michigan currently has a musky bag limit of one fish per year, which requires anglers to possess a harvest tag in order to keep a fish or to participate in a musky fishing tournament. Michigan's general statewide length limit is 42 inches.

In order to further promote the management of muskellunge as a trophy fish, Wisconsin could establish an annual bag limit of 1 (1 per year). Most musky anglers already practice catch-and-release and that is expected to continue. Allowing the harvest of one legal-sized fish per year would still provide anglers with an opportunity to keep a muskellunge. This would also allow anglers to utilize a legal fish that was accidentally killed or to harvest an exceptional trophy.

Under this proposal, anglers who intended to harvest or possess a muskellunge would first have to obtain a Hook-and-Line Muskellunge Harvest tag. You would not need a harvest tag to catch-and-release muskellunge during the open hook-and-line season. After catching a muskellunge of legal length that you wished to keep, you would have to immediately validate the harvest tag. A harvested fish would also have to be registered consistent with the process for other registered species (e.g. turkey, deer).

39. Do you favor establishing a Hook-and-Line Harvest Tag for muskellunge, which would limit the harvest of muskellunge to 1 per year, in order to further promote the trophy aspects of Wisconsin's muskellunge fishery?

39. YES____ NO____

CITIZEN RESOLUTIONS

Please utilize the blue ballot to provide your input on any citizen introduced resolutions.

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress County Meeting that is held in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings annually in April.

For information on the Conservation Congress resolution process, see page 2.

**Results of citizen resolutions introduced at the
2017 Spring Hearings will be posted on the WCC website
(dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings”) by April 21, 2017.**



Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting

Please utilize the white ballot to provide your input.

(Please note: any numbers in parenthesis following the question title are referencing the resolution(s) from which the question originated.)

WARM WATER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 40: Spearing rough fish 24 hours per day (540816)

Current law allows rough fish to be taken by hand year-round or by hand-held spear June 1 to August 31 where spearing is allowed within 200 feet of a fishway, lock or dam. This practice is limited to the hours between sunrise and sunset.

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- 40.** Would you support extending the hours when rough fish can be taken by hand-held spear (where spearing is allowed) to 24 hours per day between June 1 and August 31? **40.** YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 41: Willow Flowage muskellunge size limit increase (440216)

The state of Wisconsin manages certain lakes as trophy muskellunge waters. The Willow Flowage has the size, population density, and forage base consistent with development of fish to trophy size of 50 inches and more.

-
- 41.** Would you support raising the minimum size limit for muskellunge on the Willow Flowage to 50 inches and a combined daily bag limit of one fish? **41.** YES____ NO____
-

QUESTION 42: Wisconsin River System muskellunge size limit increase—Adams County (010116)

The state of Wisconsin manages certain lakes as trophy muskellunge waters. Adams County is home to Castle Rock Flowage, Petenwell Flowage, as well as thousands of acres of the Wisconsin River. These waters have the size, population, and forage base consistent with the development of fish to trophy size.

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42. Would you support raising the minimum size limit for muskellunge on the waters of the Wisconsin River (including Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages and sloughs, bayous, and flowages upstream to the first dam or highway bridge) in Adams County to 50 inches and a combined daily bag limit of one fish? 42. YES___ NO___
-

QUESTION 43: Cisco daily bag limit (240116)

Gill net surveys done by DNR researchers on lakes that historically had reports of cisco, show a 29% decline in the number of inland lakes contain cisco. The total daily bag limit for cisco on inland waters is 25 pounds plus one additional fish, whereas on outlying waters the daily bag limit is 10 fish in total. The 25 pound plus one additional fish limit is the only bag limit in Wisconsin that is not determined by the total number of fish caught.

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43. To simplify the regulations and make them consistent with outlying waters, do you favor changing the total daily bag limit for cisco to 10 fish in total for Wisconsin's inland waters? 43. YES___ NO___
-

QUESTION 44: Bass size and bag limit on Pelican Lake—Oneida County (440516)

A minimum length of 18 inches and daily bag of one bass has been in place since 1995 to address a rusty crayfish problem on Pelican Lake in Oneida County. Creel surveys indicate that populations of both smallmouth and largemouth bass have increased and the rusty crayfish population has diminished.

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44. Do you favor changing the bass regulations to a 14-inch minimum with a daily bag limit of five fish on Pelican Lake, Oneida County? 44. YES___ NO___
-

QUESTION 45: Katherine Lake muskellunge size increase—Oneida County (440116)

The state of Wisconsin manages certain lakes as trophy muskellunge waters. Katherine Lake has the size, population density, and forage base consistent with development of musky to 50 inches or more.

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45. Do you favor a 50-inch size limit on muskellunge on Katherine Lake, Oneida County? 45. YES___ NO___
-

TROUT COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 46: Increase Wisconsin inland waters trout stamp fee *(requires legislation)*

The trout stamp fees fund trout stream (cold water) restoration, improvements, surveys and maintenance activities. Trout stamp fees have been used to improve an average of 25 miles of stream and one spring pond per year. This has resulted in 865 miles of stream improved out of 13,000 miles of trout stream in Wisconsin. Over 700 miles of trout stream are kept free of beaver dams in northern Wisconsin each year. Trout stamp annual expenditures from 2011 through 2014 averaged \$1.6 million per year.

The cost of the trout stamp has increased from \$2.50 during 1978-1983, to \$3.25 during 1984- 1991, to \$7.25 during 1992-2006, and since 2006 it has been \$10.00.

Over the last 10 years (2005-2014), the number of trout stamps sold averaged 140,567 stamps annually. The total revenue averaged \$1,538,985 over the last 5 years (2010-2014). In addition, Patron License holders (currently about 46,000) support the Inland Waters Trout Stamp program (pro-rated to \$3.40). An average of \$345,250 per year from 2011 through 2014 was also contributed to inland trout habitat from general fishing license fees.

The costs associated with trout work crews have increased annually and the costs of fuel and materials have more than doubled in the past five years alone.

46. Do you support legislation that would increase the Inland Waters Trout Stamp fee from \$10.00 to \$15.00?

46. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 47: Allow live bait, catch and keep fishing for trout on Castle Rock Stream (Grant County) from Castle Rock town bridge to the County Q bridge (220116)

Castle Rock Stream is a Class II stocked stream in Grant County with little to no natural trout reproduction. In 2003 the DNR expanded the artificial lure only catch and release section from two and a half miles to three and a half miles, by adding a one mile portion of Castle Rock stream from the Castle Rock town bridge to the County Q bridge west of the town. This action decreased the section where catch and keep trout fishing with live bait is allowed from two miles to one mile and concentrated fishing pressure on that remaining one mile of trout stream.

Detrimental effects on the trout population would not be expected if this section of Castle Rock Creek went to live bait catch and keep fishing.

47. Do you support restoring the one mile section of the Castle Rock Stream (Grant County), extending from the Castle Rock township bridge to the County Q bridge west of the town to “live bait catch and keep” status?

47. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 48: Change trout regulations on Devils Creek in Rusk County (550116)

The 2016-17 trout regulations reduced the minimum length from nine inches to eight inches (the bag limit remained three fish) on Devils Creek. If fishing pressure remains as low as we suspect it currently is, then the current regulation may not be necessary to maintain trout populations and trout fishing in Devils Creek.

Devils Creek is one of the largest streams in Rusk County with segments designated as Class 1, 2, and 3 trout waters and historically has had naturally reproducing brook trout populations. There are many cold springs and spring ponds in the area providing groundwater to support these cold water fisheries. Devils Creek has been stocked with feral brown trout small fingerlings as a put-grow-take strategy to diversify trout fishing opportunity. There is evidence of brown trout growth and survival, but natural reproduction has not been confirmed.

48. Do you support changing the trout regulation on Devils Creek to five trout in total of any length? 48. YES____ NO____

LAND USE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS
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QUESTIONS 49: Add Rock County to ch. NR 45.09(5) Wis. Adm. Code to allow regulation of shooting on DNR owned lands (540416)

Currently target shooting is unregulated on DNR owned lands unless these lands are in counties listed ch. NR 45.09(5), Wis. Adm. Code. There are no designated public shooting ranges in Rock County, a county with a relatively high population density and relatively flat topography. There is significant unregulated target shooting on state owned lands such as the Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area. People target shooting outside of designated shooting ranges are frequently doing so without adequate backstops. Using inappropriate targets such as bottles and trees, shooting at inappropriate times of the day, and littering are discouraging other legitimate public uses on the wildlife area such as hunting and fishing.

49. Do you favor adding Rock County to the list of counties covered under ch. NR 45.09(5), Wis. Adm. Code and restrict target shooting on DNR owned lands? 49. YES____ NO____

QUESTIONS 50: Allow archery hunting during the entire deer season at Lake Wissota State Park (090616)

As is the case in most state parks, archery hunting is allowed in Lake Wissota State Park from November 15-the Sunday nearest January 6, in areas designated open to hunting. The regular archery season starts the Saturday closest to September 15, so the park is closed to archery hunting for roughly two months of the archery season.

50. Do you support opening designated areas of Lake Wissota State Park to archery hunting for the entire archery deer season (Saturday nearest September 15-Sunday nearest January 6)? 50. YES____ NO____

RULES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 51: Online voter accessibility (410716)

The DNR Spring Hearing and Conservation Congress County meeting is a public meeting held simultaneously in each county of the state at 7:00 pm on the second Monday in April. At this meeting, citizens have the opportunity provide their input on proposed fish and wildlife rule changes and advisory questions, Natural Resources Board advisory questions, and Conservation Congress advisory questions. Citizens also have the opportunity to submit resolutions for changes they would like to see to natural resource policy and law in the future and elect their WCC representatives in each county.

Due to transportation issues, travel distance to the meeting, young children at home, disabilities, work schedules, or other scheduling conflicts, the Spring Hearings are inevitably inaccessible to some county residents.

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51. Would you support the WCC and the DNR working to offer an online option for the public to provide input on the questionnaire? The elections of the WCC delegates would remain in-person at each Spring Hearing location only. 51. YES____ NO____
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BEAR COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 52: Establish a new bear hunting Zone E south of Hwy 10 (700216)

There are an increased number of bear moving to the southern part of our state (Zone C) and the bear in Zone C are not evenly distributed with greater numbers of bear in the northern portion of Zone C.

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52. Would you support the creation of a new zone (Zone E) south of highway 10? 52. YES____ NO____
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GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTION

QUESTION 53: Control impact of sheepshead in Green Bay (150416)

Anecdotal evidence from sport and commercial fisherman suggests a significant increase in sheepshead populations over the past 5 years.

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53. Would you support the WCC work with the DNR to conduct sheepshead studies to determine the impact of sheepshead on the Green Bay ecosystem? 53. YES____ NO____
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MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 54: Mississippi River “3 fish over 18 inch” daily walleye limit; March 1– May 31

The overall quality of the Mississippi River walleye fishery seems to be declining. Though not conclusive, there is some limited data which suggests a long term trend toward smaller and fewer walleye.

The Wisconsin fishing season remains open year-round on the Mississippi River with the current walleye limit being six fish over 15 inches. It was once believed that when female walleye had reached the length of 15 inches, they had become mature enough to successfully spawn at least once. Recently, it has become generally accepted that allowing walleyes that reach a length of 18 inches provides a much greater probability of the females reaching maturity and having at least one opportunity to spawn. Some observations of walleye fisheries that have restricted harvest of larger fish have shown improved spawning results and larger fish.

Mississippi River walleye are most vulnerable to harvest during pre-spawn and spawning periods. Some anglers believe that a more restrictive limit of three fish over 18 inches during spring months would retain more spawn-ready fish throughout a period when highly variable river conditions often delay timing of spawning activity. Such limit could provide long term fishery improvement while lending compromise to the current six fish over 15 inches limit.

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- 54.** Do you favor a Mississippi River daily walleye catch limit of three fish over 18 inches from March 1 – May 31, and the limit remaining the current six fish over 15 inches for other months?

54. YES____ NO____

Note: Sauger are included in the current six fish daily limit but without size restriction. This question is not intended to affect size or catch limits for sauger.

QUESTION 55: Mississippi River 15 to18-inch slot limit March1-May 31 (470116)

Refer to the background information above (question 54).

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- 55.** Do you favor a Mississippi River slot limit of five walleyes under 18 inches plus one fish over 28 inches (no fish between 18 and 28 inches may be kept) during the fishing season of March 1-May 31; and the limit remaining the current six fish over 15 inches for the remainder of the season?

55. YES____ NO____

Note: Sauger are included in the current six fish daily limit but without size restriction. This question is not intended to affect size or catch limits for sauger.

FUR HARVEST COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 56: Aquatic furbearer research funding (710416) (requires legislation)

Wisconsin's otter population is healthy and otter are common across the entire state. However, gathering the necessary information that could enhance and refine population estimates is difficult because they exist at low densities when compared to other species, such as raccoon or muskrat. Further, other aquatic furbearers, such as muskrats, beavers and mink have been subject to unexplained population fluctuations. All of these species could be better understood if funding for wildlife research, earmarked for aquatic furbearers, were available.

Since 2010, a \$3.00 surcharge on the bobcat permit application fee has been earmarked and used specifically for bobcat research. The research funded with this money, has supported the expansion of bobcat hunting and trapping, and has provided a great deal of information which is allowing us to make better decisions about bobcat management. The research findings make it possible to justify and ensure sustainable bobcat hunting and trapping in Wisconsin using sound science.

Trappers have suggested that a similar surcharge added to the otter permit application fee could be beneficial by providing funding for wildlife research earmarked for aquatic furbearers.

56. Do you support legislation to add a \$3.00 surcharge on to the otter permit application fee to be used specifically for aquatic furbearer research and study? **56.** YES____ NO____

QUESTION 57: Landowner coyote cable restraint (370216)

Trapping is allowed year round by landowners and their agents on their land, however the use of cable restraints is currently only allowed from December 1-February 15.

57. Do you support a rule change that would allow the use of cable restraints by landowners and/or their agents on their land year round? **57.** YES____ NO____

QUESTION 58: Legalizing the use of cable restraints before December 1 on private land (540516)

Currently, Wisconsin trappers may use cable restraints on dry land after December 1. Although trapping season starts in October, the use of cable restraints is delayed until December to avoid incidents with other users.

Cable restraints have proven effective in catching coyotes. Some trappers would like to use cable restraints from the start of the season. They suggest that any perceived conflicts could be avoided by allowing the use of cable restraints only on private land, with the permission of the landowner.

58. Do you support a rule change to allow the use of cable restraints on private land only (with the land owner's permission), for the entire dry land trapping season (beginning the Saturday nearest October 17)? **58.** YES____ NO____

QUESTION 59: Southern mink and muskrat season opening dates (280116, 540916, 650216)

Recently, in an effort to simplify regulations, a statewide opening date was established for mink and muskrat (the Saturday nearest October 25). This resulted in an opening date about a week earlier in what was formerly the southern zone. Some trappers are concerned that the last litter of muskrats are too small at that time to have any value and the pelts of muskrats and mink are not yet prime and are sub-optimal quality. Trappers have also cited conflicts with other users during this time. Trappers who voluntarily delay trapping to account for these concerns worry that they will experience a lower harvest because trappers who choose to trap early will have already taken a large part of the trappable surplus before the pelts become prime.

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59. Do you support a rule change to create two mink and muskrat zones, dividing Wisconsin along State Highway 60? The northern zone would keep the current opener (the Saturday nearest October 25) while the southern zone would open two weeks later. 59. YES____ NO____
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QUESTION 60: Use of lights to scan after dark for predator calling (450416) (requires legislation)

Currently, Wisconsin predator callers are only allowed to use lights at the point of kill. Some hunters would like to use lights earlier. They feel that this would allow them to better identify their targets, and would allow them to be more sure of their shot placement. This suggested change would require that hunters that use lights to scan for predators must be in possession of calling equipment (electronic, hand held, or mouth blown) and the lights may not be attached to or shown from any vehicle or means of conveyance.

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60. Do you support legislation which would allow predator hunters to use lights to scan prior to the kill? 60. YES____ NO____
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QUESTION 61: Wisconsin policy concerning beavers (530316)

Current state law allows for the removal of beavers in certain nuisance situations. However, beaver dams can play a positive role in helping to maintain water and environmental qualities. If properly managed, beavers can have a positive influence on sedimentation, nutrient pollution, and flooding. Their dams help slow water flow and allow sediments to settle giving bacteria in the sediment an opportunity to eliminate harmful toxins and reduce nutrient pollution.

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61. Do you support a policy which would require that beaver management (with respect to their influence on cleaner water, reduced flooding, better water infiltration, and better habitats for many important species) be considered within all DNR management plans? 61. YES____ NO____
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QUESTION 62: Increasing the maximum jaw spread for foothold traps used in wet sets (720716)

Current law allows the use of foothold traps used in wet sets with a jaw spread up to 8 inches. A commercially manufactured trap (the TS-85) is now available which has a jaw spread of 8 ½ inches. Some trappers would like to use this new trap for beaver and otter trapping.

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62. Do you support a rule change which would allow the use of foothold traps, in wet sets, with a jaw spread up to 8 ½ inches? 62. YES____ NO____
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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 63: Moratorium on new state stormwater and air permits for frac sand mining and processing (590816) (requires legislation)

The industrial sand, commonly called frac sand, mining and processing industry has experienced rapid growth in some portions of Wisconsin containing significant deposits of frac sand material. Cumulatively, mining and processing operations in the state involve thousands of acres of land and millions of tons of product and waste materials. These operations can have an impact on storm water runoff, groundwater recharge, and air quality on and directly adjacent to mining and processing sites. In response to public concerns and regulatory issues the Natural Resources Board has authorized a Strategic Analysis of Industrial Sand Mining to be completed in 2016. The study will provide scientific information for those making future frac sand regulatory decisions.

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- 63.** Do you support legislation which would impose a moratorium on the issuance of new DNR stormwater or air permits related to frac sand mining and processing until implementation of any recommendations developed through the Strategic Analysis of Industrial Sand Mining? **63. YES**____ **NO**____
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QUESTION 64: Support increased planting/maintenance of milkweed (540116)

Monarch butterflies are important pollinators in Wisconsin. Population levels have declined in the U.S. by 90% over the last 20 years. The U.S. Dept. of the Interior is considering placing the monarch butterfly on the Endangered Species List, and the Wisconsin DNR is actively encouraging efforts to preserve this species. Milkweed plays a critical role in the habitat needs of the monarch (female monarchs only lay their eggs in/on milkweed plants), and it is believed that much of the population decline is due to the disappearance of milkweed. Several city, towns, and villages in Wisconsin identify milkweed as a noxious weed by ordinance and take aggressive actions to remove or prevent the planting of it within their communities.

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- 64.** Do you support having the DNR encourage local governments to remove milkweed from local noxious weed ordinances and encourage the planting and maintenance of quality milkweed plots? **64. YES**____ **NO**____
-

QUESTION 65: Lead reclamation (040216)

Lead bullets and shot left over from practice and target shooting at ranges can pose a contamination risk to the environment if not properly managed. Lead reclamation reduces these risks and can be accomplished through a series of simple steps which can be outlined in an "Environmental Stewardship Plan" for the range. The "Environmental Stewardship Plan" can provide documentation of lead reclamation activities and show compliance with the many laws that govern shooting ranges.

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- 65.** Should the Conservation Congress work with the DNR to reach out to shooting ranges operating in Wisconsin to provide voluntary training on creating "Environmental Stewardship Plans" for lead reclamation to better manage lead at these facilities? **65. YES**____ **NO**____
-

QUESTIONS 66-67: Restore DNR compliance to the Clean Water Act (200116, 310316, 020216, 090116, 110116, 131616, 150516, 170116, 250116, 260116, 310116, 410616, 530516, 560316, 570316, 620216, 630216) (requires legislation)

In 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency identified 75 potential issues with Wisconsin's legal authority to administer the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("WPDES") Permit Program (a federally delegated water pollution permit program established under the Clean Water Act). The DNR has addressed the majority of issues through rulemaking and through an Attorney General's Statement issued in 2012. To date, the DNR has promulgated 6 rule packages to address many of the issues. Another rule package is currently in the rulemaking process. EPA is currently reviewing the promulgated rules for consistency with federal regulations. A few remaining issues can only be resolved through statutory changes.

66. Do you support the department's continued efforts to address the 75 issues in the WPDES permit program?	66. YES____ NO____
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67. Would you support Conservation Congress efforts to work with the department and the Wisconsin Legislature to take actions needed to address the remaining issues?	67. YES____ NO____
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QUESTION 68: Repeal the iron mining law (590716) (requires legislation)

2013 Act 1 created a new and separate regulatory framework applicable specifically to ferrous (iron) mining activities. The legislature modified the regulatory process applied to other metallic mines, in order to facilitate review of future iron mining projects. Major changes included imposing a specific review timeline on the DNR, removing the mandatory contested case hearing held before the issuance of permits, and changing review processes and decision-making criteria related to wetlands, navigable waters, mining waste facilities, ground water quality and water withdrawals. Iron mining projects are typically large in scale and could affect several thousand acres of land and the water resources in the vicinity of the project. The recently withdrawn GTAC Project in Iron County would have been located in the headwaters of the Bad River, which flows north to Lake Superior through the Kakagon Bad River Sloughs, a national natural landmark and a wetland of international importance.

68. Do you support legislation which would repeal Act 1, the iron mining law from 2013?	68. YES____ NO____
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QUESTION 69: DNR authority to suspend application for the study of pollution impacts (040116) (requires legislation)

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and other significant development requests may pose risks to the environment, and it takes time to fully research and understand the potential effects of proposed developments. Recently, it's been requested that permitting be suspended when matters of environmental importance need to be studied. The DNR has stated that they can't deny them a permit if they meet all statutory and code requirements.

69. Do you support the Legislature giving the DNR authority to suspend any application when pollution matters need to be studied by tribes, local governments, or other governmental entities?	69. YES____ NO____
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QUESTIONS 70-71: Control of high capacity wells (540316) (requires legislation)

High capacity wells are currently approved with no notice to area residents and limited consideration of impacts to surface waters. Often, impact of high capacity well use is not apparent until after the well has been in operation. This can include effects on both surface waters and residential wells.

70. Do you support legislation which would require public notice be sent to area residents within a two mile radius upon application of any high capacity wells? 70. YES____ NO____

71. Do you support legislation which would include the authority to suspend a high capacity well approval for a well that has caused impact or impairment to area wells, wetlands or surface waters? 71. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 72: Oppose the Enbridge Pipeline expansion (110216)

Enbridge Energy Corporation is seeking to expand their current right-of-way for Pipeline 61 from 80 feet to 280 feet. This would run the entire length of the State of Wisconsin, from Superior to Delevan and would result in the permanent loss of tens of thousands of acres of forest and woodlots. This expansion would allow for a significant increase in the volume of tar sand crude oil Pipeline 61 could move through Wisconsin, putting greater risks on our environment in the event of a spill or accident.

72. Do you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress taking an official position to oppose the Enbridge Pipeline expansion? 72. YES____ NO____

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 73-74: Reciprocity dog training privileges (040516, 560116) (requires legislation)

Not all states allow the training of dogs to track wild animals. Wisconsin does allow the training of dogs on free-roaming animals, including bear, wolf, bobcat, coyote, fox or raccoon without charging a fee. Anecdotal evidence indicates there may be an increase in individuals coming from out-of-state to train their dogs as their home states do not allow the practice.

73. Do you support legislation which would authorize the establishment of a "Dog Training License" that non -residents would be required to purchase in order to train their dogs in Wisconsin for tracking/hunting the above species? 73. YES____ NO____

74. Would you support legislation which would authorize a reciprocity agreement to allow non-residents to train their dogs in Wisconsin if their home state allows Wisconsin residents to train dogs on the same species in that state? 74. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 75: Reduce archery/gun deer license fee for Wisconsin military veterans over 70 (700116)
(requires legislation)

There is no current reduced fee deer license for military veterans over the age of 70 in Wisconsin. The number of hunters that is represented by this demographic is small, yet presents the opportunity for the state to acknowledge and show appreciation for these individuals' service.

75. Do you support legislation which would authorize a reduced archery/gun deer license fee for Wisconsin military veterans over the age of 70 years old? 75. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 76: Restore state funding to state parks (130716) (requires legislation)

As the result of changes in the last state budget, vehicle admission and camping fees for Wisconsin State Parks increased to help offset the elimination of general purpose (GPR) funding by the state. This may have a negative impact upon park usage by low income users.

76. Do you support legislation which would appropriate general purpose (GPR) funding to help manage the Wisconsin state park system? 76. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 77: Disabled hunters needing assistance to harvest a legally wounded animal (130916)
(requires legislation)

Presently, a person with a Class A Disabled Hunting Permit and legally hunting with an assistant, may not ask the assistant to help with dispatch of a wounded animal. There are times and situations that the disabled hunter may not be able to get to the wounded animal and the best way is to have the assistant do so for them. A change in law has already been made for mentors of youth hunters to help the youth when asked in dispatching an animal. The youth then tags the animal.

77. Do you support legislation which would allow the assistant of a person with a Class A Hunting Permit to pursue and dispatch an animal, if legally shot, wounded and subsequently tagged by the disabled hunter? 77. YES____ NO____

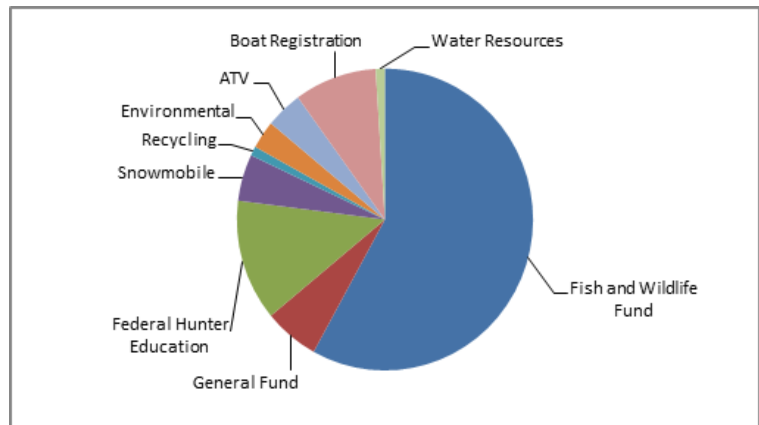
QUESTION 78: Maintain Stewardship Fund (450316)

In 1989, funding for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program was funded at \$25 million per year and in 2010 reached a high of \$86 million. Currently the Stewardship Fund is budgeted at \$33.2 million dollars per year. Stewardship funds are used to purchase and develop lands for hunting, fishing, trapping and recreating, lake and stream access and easements, partnerships with local governments, and protection of unique parcels of land. Other benefits include timber harvest, tourism, many different kinds of outdoor recreation and increased water quality.

78. Do you support the Legislature continuing to fund the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund at adequate levels with wise use of the funds by the NRB and the DNR? 78. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 79. Restructuring of conservation warden funding (440416) (may require legislation)

Through the budget process the Bureau of Law Enforcement is authorized 194 credentialed positions. There are insufficient current and trainee wardens to fill the positions available. This may be due to the limited funding available for these positions. The current funding is derived from the adjacent breakdown. These funds are not stable and result in fluctuating budgets, resulting in difficult management of the force.



79. Would you support the recommendation that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources to find and develop stable funding sources for present and future needs concerning the warden service?

79. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 80: Sandhill crane hunting season (540616) (requires legislation)

There are 700,000 sandhill cranes in North America and 17 states have hunting season including two states in our flyway: Kentucky and Tennessee. A management plan approved by 31 states and Canadian provinces in eastern North America established that the Eastern Population of sandhill cranes was large enough to be hunted and established a process for a state to apply for a limited quota based hunting season. In Wisconsin, the state legislature must approve a quota-based hunting season on sandhill cranes before the DNR can develop a season.

80. Do you support legislation which would give the DNR authority to begin the process to develop a hunting season for sandhill cranes?

80. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 81: Support license fee increase to fund some cold water fish hatcheries (160316) (requires legislation)

State fish hatcheries that rear species of salmon and trout that are stocked in the Great Lakes derive their funding partially through the purchase of the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon stamp. There is a need for additional funding to support the staffing, repair, maintenance, and development of facilities to meet current and future fishery demands, and there has not been a Great Lakes stamp fee increase since 2004.

81. Do you support legislation which would increase Great Lakes stamp fees from \$10.00 to \$15.00, to further support and promote cold water fisheries in Wisconsin?

81. YES____ NO____

QUESTION 82: Change in funding for Stewardship Program (440316, 640116) (requires legislation)

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program was created by the Legislature in 1989 to purchase land in Wisconsin to be used by the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, bird watching, hiking and other outdoor activities. Funding for this program is approved by the Legislature every two years in the state budget with borrowing authority, not actual cash. Because of this funding structure, accumulated debt service is currently over \$930 million, with interest alone over \$1 million per week. Some states have found alternative ways to fund this type of program. Missouri has a $\frac{1}{8}$ of 1% sales tax that brought in over \$90 million dollars in 2016. Minnesota has a Legacy Fund, created in 2000, that's funded by $\frac{3}{8}$ of 1% sales tax. Michigan has The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, where funds are derived from royalties on the sale and lease of state owned mineral rights.

82. Do you support legislation which would change Stewardship funding from a borrowing-based program to a cash-based program?

82. YES ____ NO ____

QUESTION 83: Wisconsin game bird, the wild turkey (710316) (requires legislation)

Wild turkeys are native to North America. There is archeological evidence that the wild turkey has been hunted in North America since 6,500 BC. And as early as 1670, Jesuit Claud Jean Alluey noted turkeys in Wisconsin during his travels here. But by the late 1800's, Wisconsin experienced a total extirpation of wild turkeys through unregulated market hunting, clearing of woodlands, and diseases from domestic poultry. In 1976, a successful reintroduction of wild turkeys occurred. There are now an estimated 350,000 wild turkeys in Wisconsin with 130,000 turkey hunters enjoying hunting these magnificent birds. Wild turkeys are now very visible to Wisconsin residents. At present, Wisconsin does not have a state symbol designating a State Game Bird.

83. Do you support legislation which would name the wild turkey as the Wisconsin State Game Bird?

83. YES ____ NO ____

QUESTION 84: Rail safety measures (320216)

Over the years the railroad industry has changed. Today's railroads may transport over one mile long trains comprised of highly hazardous materials including crude oil and ethanol that present danger to our residents and the environment. Wisconsin experienced two of these types of derailments in late 2015 in Alma and Watertown. The Alma incident caused 20,000+ gallons of ethanol to spill into the Mississippi River. There have also been derailments in other Wisconsin cities as well as some of our neighboring states.

The railroad system is regulated by the Federal Government, but the state and the DNR may take steps to strengthen rail safety and encourage greater collaboration, to better protect our natural resources and our communities.

84. Do you favor the NRB and DNR working with the Office of the State Railroad Commissioner, elected officials both state and federal and other state and federal agencies to protect natural resources and our citizens, by working with state railroad inspectors, submission of prevention and response plans, training of local emergency first responders along rail routes, creating an inventory of public and private resources available upon a derailment, looking at adequacy of railroad insurance and other recommendations to improve preparedness and safety?

84. YES ____ NO ____

DEER & ELK COMMITTEE ADVISORY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 85-88. County Deer Advisory Council options *(may require legislation)*

To increase the list of deer herd management tools available for County Deer Advisory Councils (CDACs) to use while trying to maintain or decrease the deer population within their county:

85. Would you support CDACs that are trying to maintain or decrease the deer population within their county having the ability to implement earn-a-buck within their county as a herd management tool? *(requires legislation)* **85.** YES____ NO____

86. Would you support CDACs in counties that are trying to maintain or decrease the deer population within their county having the ability to establish an antlerless only season that would run from the day after the statewide 4-day December antlerless hunt and continue thru the remainder of the archery season? **86.** YES____ NO____

87. Would you support CDACs that are trying to maintain or decrease the deer population within their county having the ability to implement a 16-day firearm season within their county? The season would start the same day as the statewide traditional 9-day firearm season? **87.** YES____ NO____

88. Would you support an incentive program such as tax breaks, tax deductions or flat fee deductions for property owners who participate in an access program for deer hunting? **88.** YES____ NO____

NOTES:

How to Write a Resolution

Resolution Content



Resolution Format



Resolution Presentation



Sample Resolution



See WCC Resolution Process (page 2)

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

- ✓ The resolutions must be typed or legible hand written 8 ½ x 11 white paper.
- ✓ Resolutions must be 250 words or less, on one side of an 8 ½ x 11 white sheet of paper and there will be no attachments or additional sheets accepted for the same resolution.
- ✓ The author's name, mailing address, county, telephone number and signature is required to be at the bottom of the resolution.

- Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution within the county. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced.
- No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.
- Written resolutions not meeting the above criteria and/or verbal resolutions will not be accepted.
- Provide the Congress County Chair with **TWO COPIES** of the resolution for submission at the beginning of the evening, one to be part of the official record and the other to be posted for public viewing.
- Individuals in attendance at the meeting can vote on the resolution being introduced within the county.

Designating the morel as the state fungus (*requires legislation*)

At present, Wisconsin does not have a designated state fungus.

The morel is important to many citizens; from the thousands of Wisconsin mushroom hunters that take to the woods to look for these edible wild mushrooms to the thousands of others that consume them and consider them a seasonal delicacy.

Morels typically grow in sandy soils near ash, aspen, elm and oak trees (usually dead or dying trees) and they require very specific temperatures, site and weather conditions to grow, so the quantity and time period that they are available is limited. Given the challenges associated with finding and harvesting these mushrooms, as well as the fluctuation in the number produced annually, the ability to locate and sell morels to other citizens provides an economic boost to successful hunters.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in _____ County on April 10, 2017 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the state legislature to designate the morel as the state fungus.

Name of Author: John Q. Public
Name of Organization (*optional*): Private Citizen
Address: W12345 State Road 6
City, State, Zip Code: Hometown, Wisconsin 54321
Name of the County Introducing In: _____ County
Telephone Number (*including area code*): 123-456-0789

*Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

**Thank you
for attending this year's
meeting!**



**Department of Natural Resources
Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife
Public Hearing
&**

**Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Annual Spring County
Conservation Meeting**



**Interested in making a difference
by becoming part of the
Wisconsin Conservation Congress?**

**Talk to one of your local delegates or visit the
Conservation Congress website at:
dnr.wi.gov – search “Conservation Congress”**